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RDC quizzed on merger options

By Nicolas Schneyer

Ruapehu District Council fielded questions from residents at a public meeting last week over the government's push to amalgamate local councils into new unitary authorities.

The move follows a broader effort by central government to cut administrative friction in local governance, building on earlier reforms such as fast-track legislation and changes to the Resource Management Act. Councils, as statutory creatures, have no say in the matter: amalgamation must go ahead regardless.

Ruapehu's mayor Winston Kirton acknowledged the district has little room to manoeuvre.

"We must amalgamate whether we like it or not, but I remain confident we can take our best shot," he told the meeting.

RDC had attempted to get ahead of the process, putting forward its own headstart proposal to neighbouring councils for how a merger might look. That approach found no takers.

The council now finds itself instead having to respond to three options put forward by the Local Government Commission: retaining the current Horizons region as is; a new grouping combining Ruapehu, Whanganui, Rangitikei and Taupō; or a grouping of Ruapehu, Taupō, Waitomo, Ōtorohanga and South Waikato.

A hui held with iwi in Raetihi on Monday last week explored an alternative framework known as "Te Kāhui Maunga," under which regional boundaries would be redrawn around geographic and environmental landmarks such as rivers and mountains, rather than existing adminis-

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Ruapehu's mayor Weston Kirton explains amalgamation options at a public meeting in Taumarunui last week. RDC chief executive Clive Manly is at left. Photo: Nicolas Schneyer.

Tūroa top to bottom



ABOVE: A legendary Tūroa de-icer clears a tower on the High Noon Express after the recent storm, getting the chairlift ready to open for Tuesday – the first time this season that there has been top to bottom skiing and snowboarding at the field. The upper field snow depth (measured at the top of The Giant) is at 100cm after the 50cm of snow in the past 7 days. The HNE opened on 26 July in 2025. Photo: Pure Tūroa.

LEFT: Whakapapa lifts operations manager Shane Buckingham tells the people on Sunday that the Sky Waka Gondola would be open for skiers and boarders on Monday, saying it's "probably the best I've seen it in donkeys' years". He said there would be some narrow spots so advised people to take their time. Next actions would be at the Delta Chairlift, which they hope to have running later in the week. Shane said they planned to start work on the Valley T-bar line, ready to take advantage of the next snow storm, forecast for later in the week. Photo: Whakapapa.

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Green grants for groups in Ruapehu District

The regional council has announced funding for 37 community projects through the Kanorau Koiora Taketake – Indigenous Biodiversity Community Grant and the Pūtea Hapori Urupare Āhuarangi – Community Climate Response Fund.

Manawatū Whanganui Regional Council (Horizons) deputy chairperson and community grant committee member Fiona Gordon says halting the decline in the region’s native biodiversity and building resilience to climate change is no easy task.

“Rules and regulations can only do so much. It’s our community that plays the lead role in making great things happen, so it’s important Council collaborates in ways that empowers this work.

“Our community is working hard to restore wetlands, protect native bush, increase opportunities for environmental education, monitoring and increasing local food systems.

“It’s these kinds of partnership approaches that can really help lift our game across the region for native biodiversity, and building resilience around food, water and energy,” says Gordon.

“The contestable grants do a great job of supporting this important work.

“We’ve seen impressive results through these grants to date and this year looks set to be another successful



Infestations of weeds such as blackberry are being targeted by the Friends of the Mangawhero River Track, with a large financial boost from Horizons.

round of funding.”

The total funding allocated to both grants this year is \$419,000 and includes funding allocation for seven multi-year projects from previous years.

This year, local communities across the region will benefit, with eleven projects in Whanganui, seven in both Ruapehu and Horowhenua, three each for Tararua, Rangitikei and Manawatū, two from Palmerston North, and one in Waitomo.

Ruapehu’s 2026 Kanorau Koiora Taketake – Indigenous Biodiversity Community Grant, go to:

- 800 Trust - Makino Station pest animal control.
- Green Stag Ltd - Erua Ora Biodiversity Restoration Project.

• Ngāti Te Maunga Whenuakura Incorporated Society - Mahere ki kaitiakitanga a Whenuakura.

• Project Tongariro – Ohakune’s Mangawhero River Track Restoration.

• Taumata Plantations Limited - Pungapunga River Whio Recovery Group.

• Te iwi o Ngāti Tukorehe Trust - Te Waro A Pest Control and Eradication Programme.

Ruapehu’s Pūtea Hapori Urupare Āhuarangi - Community Climate Response Fund grant goes to the Ohakune Kindergarten- Rainwater Harvesting System.

RDC quizzed on merger options

From Page 1

trative lines.

Councillor Kuru Ketu, who presented the framework, argued that it would group together areas facing similar pressures, whether over resource consents, tourism, or farming, and that this shared footing would make co-operation and decision-making easier within each new region. The framework is also framed as a way to ensure the amalgamation continues to uphold Treaty principles and maintains close partnership with iwi.

Chief executive Clive Manley says the council is weighing the decision against three main objectives. The first is deliverability: securing partnerships with political allies councillors can work with, within a system that ensures fair representation. The second is economies of scale, with a larger combined population expected to lower the unit cost of delivering public services.

The third is affordability, since future tax rates and subsidies will hinge on which partners Ruapehu ends up with in a new unitary authority.

Kirton pointed out that Ruapehu currently receives more government subsidy for roading than any other district, covering 75 percent of costs, support he expects to shrink once the district enters a new entity.

Residents at the meeting raised concerns over representation, given Ruapehu holds the most land but the smallest population of any prospective partner, as well as fears of losing local identity within a larger entity.

The mayor said he would push for a “one district, one vote” system to protect fair representation. On identity, he argued the district’s character would not be compromised as long as it partners with councils whose interests are aligned with those of the district. The vote on which option to pursue is set for today, 29 July.

The timeline

May 2026 Cabinet announces Head Start policy	29 July 2026 Council decides its pathway	9 Aug 2026 Outline proposals due to Government	Sep 2026 Cabinet decision: agreed in principle	Oct 2026 – Mar 2027 Detailed design phase	May 2027 Cabinet confirms final proposals	Oct 2028 Local body elections
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▲ we are here

If no proposal goes in, the backstop begins after the October 2028 election and the Government decides the arrangement.

Three options on the table

Each option would create one new unitary council doing the work of both district and regional councils. No decision has been made.

Option 1: The current Horizons region

One council for Ruapehu, Whanganui, Rangitikei, Manawatū, Palmerston North, Horowhenua and Tararua. About 260,000 people. Keeps our rivers and catchments together, which fits the new planning rules well. It is also the biggest and most varied option, so keeping a strong local voice for a small rural district would matter most here.

Option 2: Ruapehu, Whanganui, Rangitikei and Taupō

About 121,000 people, with two main service towns in Whanganui and Taupō. Builds on our rural character, the Whanganui River connection to the south and the mountain visitor economy to the north. It crosses the current regional boundary, so how rivers and catchments are managed would need to be worked through.

Option 3: Ruapehu, Taupō, Waitomo, Ōtorohanga and South Waikato

A King Country grouping of about 100,000 people looking north, with strong tourism, farming and iwi connections across the Central Plateau. Like Option 2 it crosses the regional boundary and splits the Whanganui catchment, so the same questions would need working through.

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

Girls Who Shred 9 Aug
Visit www.pureturoa.nz for details

Royal Theatre Movies, starts 7pm
Smash Palace (R16) 15 August

Warren Miller Movie 20 Aug
Fundraiser for SARDA NZ Matterhorn, presented by La Pizzeria

Winter Art Exhibition 23 Aug - 6 Sept
Paul Stieglbauer - paul@4thames.co.nz

SEPTEMBER 2026

Peak to Keg 26 Sep
www.powderhorn.co.nz

Waimarino Art Awards 26 Sept - 2 Oct
See WaimarinoArtAwards.org.nz for more information

OCTOBER 2026

Retro Day 3 Oct
Paul Stieglbauer - paul@4thames.co.nz

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or email ads@ruapehubulletin.co.nz

KINGS BAR & RESTAURANT

3 Rimu St 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.

LKNZ LODGE & CAFE

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

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Bottom of the mountain road Ph: 06 385 8888
For over 35 years, The Powderkeg has been serving up exceptional food and service in a warm, welcoming atmosphere. Whether you're enjoying a sunny afternoon on our spacious balcony or indulging in our weekly specials like Sushi Fridays and Smokehouse Sundays, there's always something to look forward to. Join us for an unforgettable dining experience and follow us on Instagram @ powderkegbar for the latest updates and mouthwatering offers! Open daily 7am till late

THE CYPRUS TREE

79 Clyde St, Ohakune Ph: 06 385 8857
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UTOPIA CAFÉ

47 Clyde St, Ohakune Ph: 06 385 9120
Open 7 days from 8am – 3pm for all day breakfast and lunch. Serving Havana Coffee. A cosy memorable atmosphere with a great range of cabinet food and beverages, Frappé and smoothies. Vegan/Gluten-free options for both savoury and sweet are available. Speedy free Wi-Fi! A perfect place for everybody!

Dinosaur sculpture on show, supported by arts group

A striking new dinosaur sculpture by award-winning Taumarunui artist James Cannon on show at the Taumarunui Library has been unveiled by the Ruapehu Art Advisory Group.

The sculpture is the first artwork to be displayed as part of a new initiative that opens Council spaces to local artists, giving them greater opportunities to showcase their work.

A well-known Ruapehu artist, Cannon has received recognition at both the Waimarino Art Awards and the Ruapehu Art Awards.

He spent more than 200 hours creating the sculpture, which is made entirely from found and recycled materials, reflecting his commitment to sustainability and creative reuse.

Ruapehu's mayor Weston Kirton said he was delighted to see Council providing opportunities for local artists and that it was fitting for James Cannon to be the first artist to exhibit under the new initiative.

"This installation shows the value of creating visible public spaces where local artists can share their talent with the com-



The striking dinosaur sculpture by local artist James Cannon will be on display at the Taumarunui Library until 25 September before being exhibited at Waimarino Art Awards at the Raetihi Theatre until 2 October. From left, Weston Kirton; Fiona Thomas, Head of Library Services; John Chapman, Art Advisory Group Coordinator; and artist James Cannon. Photo: RDC.

Building the future of sika deer herd management

New Zealand's valued sika deer in the Kaimanawa and Kaweka Forest Parks have been designated as the North Island's first ever Herd of Special Interest (HOSI).

Hunting and Fishing Minister James Meager says his landmark decision will see sika managed under a "clearer, more coordinated framework, which strengthens hunting opportunities and improves key conservation outcomes.

Meager made the announcement in Taupo with the Central North Island Sika Foundation, who will assist the Game Animal Council in its day-to-day management of the herd, alongside DOC, iwi and hapū, and other partners.

"I am a firm believer in the power of hunter-led conservation and this designation empowers the sector to lead sensible herd management. It ensures hunters can put healthy animals on the family dinner table, while better protecting our precious biodiversity," Meager says.

"It will build on the Sika Foundation's long-standing commitment to improving the health of the herd and the environment they live in."

He says the Herd Management Plan sets strong parameters and ensures conservation values remain firmly in place.

"It does not seek to increase animal numbers. A key focus will be reducing

browsing pressure on young trees and improving forest regeneration, particularly in areas of high biodiversity.

"The herd's management will also be supported by ongoing monitoring from DOC and a formal review at least every five years, providing clear accountability.

"DOC will continue to manage all other aspects of public conservation land as usual within the area, while I retain overall authority and can amend or remove the designation, or any delegation, if required.

"For hunters on the ground, current access arrangements will remain under the existing permit system. People will be able to see a new HOSI area when applying for their hunting permit."

The decision follows a full statutory process, including public submissions, engagement with iwi and hapū, and advice from key agencies and organisations.

"I want to thank everyone who contributed. This decision reflects a balanced approach that recognises the importance game animal hunting values, while maintaining strong environmental safeguards," says Meager.

"This day has been a long-time coming, with legislation supporting the creation of HOSIs passed back in 2013. I'm proud to deliver on National's 2023 election promise to designate the first herds this Parliamentary term."

munity," said Kirton.

Council representative on the Art Advisory Group, John Chapman, said residents in the south of the district would also have the opportunity to see the sculpture, when it is exhibited at the Waimarino Art Awards at the Raetihi Theatre from 26 September to 2 October, alongside works by many other talented local artists.

"Supporting and promoting local artists by making

Council spaces available for exhibitions is one of the Art Advisory Group's key objectives.

"This is exactly the kind of creative energy we want to encourage across the district," said Chapman.

Artists interested in exhibiting their work through the Ruapehu Art Advisory Group can find more information at ruapehudc.govt.nz or contact Councillor John Chapman on 021 137 5952.

We're fixing the basics and building the future.

Carl Bates MP
National Party Candidate for Whanganui

incl Ruapehu - South Taranaki - Stratford

National

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





Royal Raetihi Theatre

Waimarino Art Awards

26 September to 2 October 2026

Official Opening Night

Saturday 26 Sept. 2026

Entry Form Deadline - 16 August 2026

Prizes from \$750 to \$2000

Entry Forms on Official Website

Delivery of Artworks Deadline

Sunday 6 Sept. 2026



www.waimarinoartawards.org.nz

Letters

Whakapapa River access history

• In response to the article “New permanent public access to the Whakapapa River celebrated...” I would just like to add a few facts that might help the story be a bit more accurate. As someone born and bred and living near the Stone Jug Road, Whakapapa river and surrounding area, I can confirm that first of all the Stone Jug Road is at Kakahi not Ōwhango, and that the Stone Jug Road used to continue all the way down to the river flats. It was fenced on both sides and continued right down to where a fence ran across the flats, allowing room for car parking and public access to the river. The Borough Council at the time also used this access to take metal from the river.

The river has changed its course over the years but originally the river was never at the bottom of the hill (as it is now). Beyond the fenced-off area where the river flats used to spread out, there was the old “Stone Jug” building to the left, and the Stone Jug Road to the right, which went all the way up the flats to where the river divided at the top of the Whakapapa Island. At that time most of the water went down the right-hand side of the Whakapapa Island and, as a Boy Scout, I remember camping on the river flats opposite where the river divided.

Somewhere during the early 70’s the river started cutting in and eventually floods took away the Stone Jug building and the fencing and carpark at the bottom of the hill. After this flood, because there was now no fencing or carpark left and, for the safety of the public, Gerald Grey (the owner of the farm and land surrounding the Stone Jug road) employed me to pull the remaining Stone Jug road fencing down and put a gate at the top of the hill – where it still remains today.

It’s good to see that access to the river is still available to the public.

Terence Brown, Whakapapa Road, Kakahi

Rare chance

• The current local government reforms give our region a rare chance to design institutions that endure. Rather than defaulting to a single, large amalgamated council, we should consider a federated structure linking Taupō, Ruapehu, Whanganui and Rangitikei, a model grounded in shared landscapes, whakapapa and long-standing relationships around Te Kāhui Maunga.

A federation would allow strategic coherence without erasing local identity. Small communities such as Raetihi, Ōhura, Pipiriki and Kāhaki must not be lost inside a distant metropolitan centre. A federated approach keeps local voice intact while still reducing duplication and improving service delivery.

Crucially, iwi and hapū must shape any new structure from the outset. A permanent standing committee of iwi around the maunga would provide continuity, uphold settlement commitments, and ensure cultural and environmental wellbeing remain central to decision-making. This strengthens Māori participation and avoids the risk of reduced representation under a single super-council, particularly in districts that recently rejected Māori wards.

The question is not what works for the next political cycle, but what

will remain legitimate in 50 or 100 years. A federation grounded in whakapapa and shared landscapes offers a durable, community-centred alternative that honours all our local identities and long-term responsibility.

John Chapman, RDC councillor

Piece of rock

• Thank you for your explanation John Archer (*Ruapehu Bulletin* 22 July).

No, I am not a scientist with vivid metaphorical images like Carl Jung. I think like most other normal humans, just can’t grasp the concept why nature is elevated to a level above the conscious realm like Mt Ruapehu, it looks so nice, it has many benefits, like skiing, snowboarding, but at the end of the day it is a piece of rock.

It has nothing to do with my grandmother or grandfather.

If you choose to worship it, that is up to you.

Common sense would tell me the whole world was created for our benefit, rivers, streams, sun, sea, sand, trees and by using them we are not plundering human kind, we are benefitting human kind. If humans didn’t use resources given to them how long would humans last? It is not a pakeha concept. Did not Māori use resources? Don’t tell me they didn’t cut down trees – tell me how do you make a canoe?

You can use your right brain or left brain, the facts remain the same.

Ben Mitchell

In control

• I was awake and felt the house shaking, got up, no damage.

A reminder of who is still in control so I opened my bible to John 1:3 all things were made by him, and without him was not anything made. And Colossians 1:16 for by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and in earth, visible and invisible. So two authors agreeing both Paul and John.

And Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21 say there will be earthquakes in diverse places, this is the time to put your trust in Jesus.

There are so many divergent heresies brought in by churches teaching spiritism over the simple truth, many people are confused, the worship of nature, the climate, Mary anything else that would divert attention away from Jesus. It is not rocket science, the gospel is made easy for anyone with an open mind.

Samuel Marsden brought us the gospel in 1820, Captain James Cook read the bible to his crew every Sunday, why do we have so many different views today, that are causing stress, disorientation, confusion, especially youth suicide? Perhaps Matthew sums it up in Chapter 24:5 – for many shall come in my name and shall deceive many.

Be careful what church you attend, and verify all statements by the scripture, Luke says he that built a house and digged deep and laid the foundation upon a rock and when the flood arose and the stream beat vehemently upon that house and could not shake it for it was founded upon a rock. 6:48.

Have a peaceful day.

Ben Mitchell

Amalgamation discussions

• On 9-10 July, myself, our Mayor, CE, Deputy Mayor and Councilor Gram travelled to Napier for a conference on council

amalgamation forced onto us within an unrealistic timeline. Mayors, chairs CE’s and elected members from Gisborne to Tauarua, from Hastings to South Taranaki were there.

Everything we have heard from our communities is mirrored in all our neighbours. Identity, self-determination, values and a bow-wave of aging infrastructure, especially in the waters. Some \$80 billion needed, Countless bridges built after the Second World War and sustainable funding fit for the future.

The MC’s were Andy Watson, mayor of Rangitikei, and Craig Little, mayor of Wairoa. What a crack up he is – no wonder he’s been mayor for 15 years.

Each council got time to tell us all how they are tracking through this directive from government.

There were some very sharp presentations, even with some banter between councils, which was good for a laugh but well thought through and got their point across. Investing in glossy projects instead of stop banks for example.

One speaker referred to the Governments Headstart and Backstop proposals as Headcase and Backstab ...not wrong.

I was a little surprised at our presentation. It didn’t mention any of some of the conversation I had heard round our council table.

Minister of local government Simon Watts zoomed, talking about a blank sheet for proposals but what matters is the outcome. If we oppose amalgamation then propose a better model, there needs to be more Central-Local Government partnership in funding. Regulations keep coming. Some councils said under Rates Capping in 10 years there will be serious issues.

What has been learnt is that one size does not fit all and what may work in urban areas may not work in rural areas. Minister Matt Patterson talked about tolling new roads; rates cap on core services; government taking on some Regional Council responsibilities. Some things should be handed back to central government and a national standard set and administered from.

He also said local government works harder than Central government.

David ‘Rabbit’Nottage, RDC councillor

Letters rules

The *Ruapehu Bulletin* welcomes letters to the editor and points out that letters published do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the *Bulletin* or staff. All letters must carry a name, address and telephone number for verification. The Editor reserves the right to edit and abridge letters.

Our policy is to give those named in letters a right of reply in the same issue, when possible. Letters will be published as space allows and not necessarily in the week that they are submitted.

Letters must be no more than 300 words unless a prior arrangement has been made. Letters are published with the writer’s name. We generally don’t accept nom de plumes unless a valid reason for needing to do so is supplied.

The editor reserves the right to reject any letter.

THE WEEKLY WORKOUT

answers for each puzzle are included on this page

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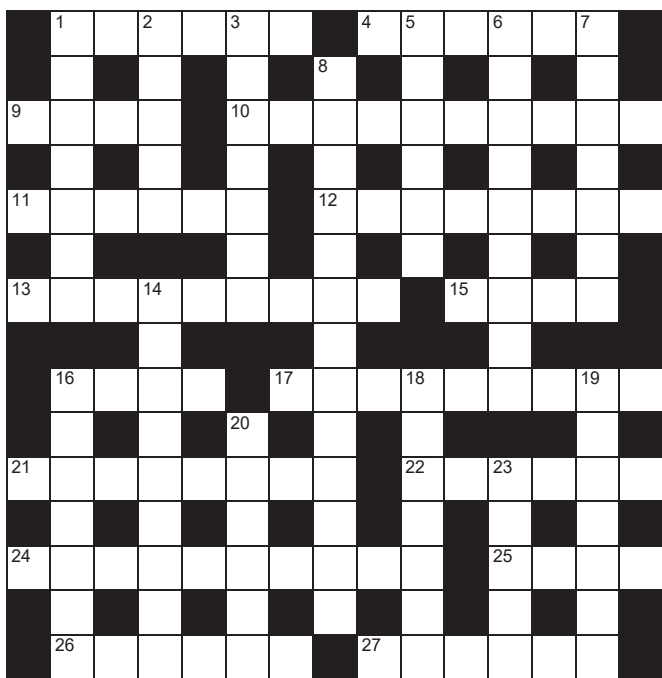
QUICK CROSSWORD

Across

1. Fraudulent scheme (6)
4. Meagre (6)
9. Finished (4)
10. Speculation (10)
11. Thief (6)
12. Drug (8)
13. Stupid, dull (3-6)
15. Just (4)
16. Tumble (4)
17. Rate of occurrence (9)
21. Tonic (4-2-2)
22. Ridiculous (6)
24. Unfinished (10)
25. Bill (4)
26. Chanteuse (6)
27. Weigh up (6)

Down

1. Type of pasta (7)
2. Chocolate substitute (5)
3. Part of a film or book (7)
5. Verse (6)
6. Logic (9)
7. Previously (7)
8. Continuous (13)
14. Celebrated (4-5)
16. Pals (7)
18. Trembles (7)
19. Animal remains (7)



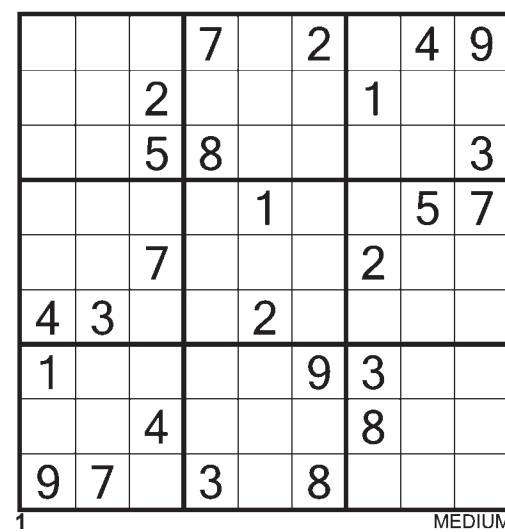
20. Place of worship (6)
23. Sword (5)



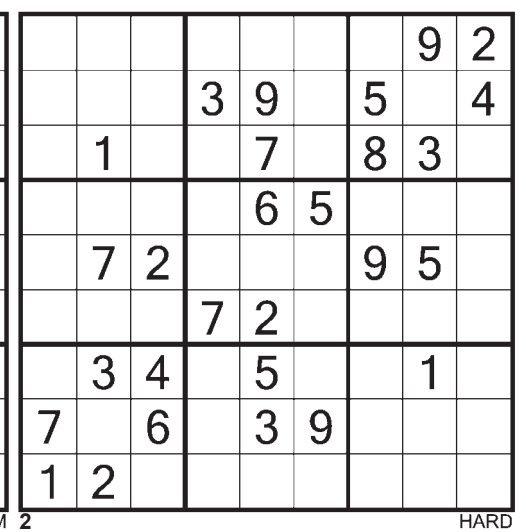
Puzzles © The Puzzle Company

SUDOKU

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



1 MEDIUM 2



HARD

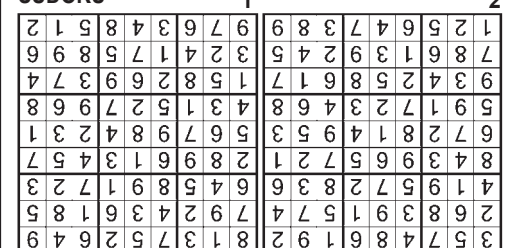
The Top 10

1. If the men’s rugby team is the All Blacks, what is the men’s softball team?
2. The name of which disease translates from the Italian for “bad air”?
3. To which of the three sections of an insect’s body are the legs attached?
4. Which country singer wrote the Whitney Houston hit “I Will Always Love You”?
5. In which comic opera do Yum-Yum, Peep-Bo and Pitti-Sing appear?
6. Which Bay of Plenty town has murals showing scenes from the town’s history?
7. Who was first to set foot in the Sea of Tranquility?
8. What name is given to the text of an opera?
9. In what year were New Zealand women granted the vote?
10. What’s the title of the 2026 film about a soldier of the 28th Māori Battalion?

CROSSWORD

Quavers, 19. Carcass, 20. Temple, 23. Sabre. rrupted, 14. Well-known, 16. Friends, 18. Poetry, 6. Rationale, 7. Earlier, 8. Uninter- Down: 1. Ravoli, 2. Carob, 3. Excerpt, 5. Assess, 25. Singer, 27. Assess. 25. Beak, 26. Singer, 27. Assess. 21. Pick-me-up, 22. Absurd, 24. Incomplete, witted, 15. Fall, 16. Fall, 17. Frequency, Conjecture, 11. Robber, 12. Narcotic, 13. Dim- Across: 1. Racket, 4. Sparse, 9. Over, 10.

SUDOKU



Free Raetihi event to hear Willie Apiata VC

One of New Zealand’s most respected leaders, Willie Apiata VC, will speak at an event in Raetihi, planned by the Ruapehu-Whanganui Rural Support Trust, for a “free evening of inspiration, connection and conversation”.

The event forms part of the Rural Support Trust’s nationwide “I’m Good ... Are You?” wellbeing series, which aims to encourage open conversations around resilience, leadership, mental wellbeing and looking out for one another.

A former New Zealand Special Air Service (NZSAS) soldier and recipient of the Victoria Cross, Willie Apiata is widely admired for his extraordinary courage, humility and authenticity. Through sharing his personal experiences, he offers practical insights into resilience, teamwork and supporting those around us.

Ruapehu-Whanganui Rural Support Trust chair Kate Berry says the Trust is delighted to be able to bring an event of this calibre to the local community.

“We’re incredibly proud to be hosting Willie Apiata in Raetihi. His story is inspiring but, more importantly, his message is one that resonates with everyone. This is a free event that gives people the opportunity to come together, connect with others and hear honest conversations about resilience, wellbeing and looking after one another.

“We encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity and register before tickets run out.”

Berry says the evening is designed to be welcoming and relaxed, providing an opportunity for friends, families, neighbours, farming teams and workmates to come together, enjoy a light supper and hear real conversations that reflect the pressures and challenges many people experience in everyday life.

“These events are about strengthening our communities,” she says.

“When we make time to check in with each other and have genuine conversations, we build stronger, more connected rural communities. Whether you’re coming with your partner, your workmates or simply a friend, we know people will leave feeling inspired and reminded that they don’t have to face life’s challenges alone.”

While the event is free to attend, registrations are essential as numbers are limited.

The Ruapehu-Whanganui Rural Support Trust extends its sincere thanks to the organisations and sponsors whose support has made these events possible for rural communities across New Zealand, including BDO New Zealand, Craigs Investment Partners, Fonterra, Greenlea Foundation Trust, Farmlands Co-operative, Property Brokers, Rural Industry Leaders, Pioneer Brand Products, NZP Power, Farming New Zealand, Ravensdown NZ, Young Farmers and Farmstrong.



Willie Apiata, VC, will speak at Raetihi on Thursday next week.

Secondary schools sports awards nominations open

Sport Whanganui is calling on schools, sports clubs, coaches, teammates, whānau and the wider community to help recognise the region’s outstanding young athletes, with nominations now open for the 2026 Mitre 10 MEGA Whanganui Secondary School Sports Awards.

Nominations close on Friday 2 October.

The awards, which celebrate excellence in secondary school sport across Whanganui, Ruapehu and Rangitikei, will be held on Wednesday, 28 October 2026.

The annual awards recognise the dedication, commitment and achievements of young people who have excelled in their chosen sports. Whether it’s representing their school, region or New Zealand internationally, breaking records, or showing exceptional leadership, Sport Whanganui wants to hear about these achievements.

Eligible achievements must have taken place between 1 October 2025 and 30 September 2026. Categories include Junior and Senior Team of the Year, Junior and Senior

National Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year, Junior and Senior International Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year, Official of the Year, Coach of the Year, Disabled Sportsman of the Year, and Contribution to Leadership.

Sports clubs are invited to make nominations from within their own organisations to ensure their achievements are recognised.

“Every year we’re amazed by the talent, dedication and perseverance of young athletes across our region, but we can only recognise those who are nominated. We encourage schools, clubs and coaches to take the time to submit a nomination, even if you think someone else already will,” Panel judge, Cath Cheatley says.

“Don’t be shy about singing an athlete’s praises – that’s exactly what a nomination is for. Results are important, but so is the story behind them. The more you tell us, the better we can understand the athlete’s achievements.”

Nominations etc, see www.sportwhanganui.co.nz

I’M GOOD...ARE YOU? WILLIE APIATA VC





Thursday August 6th
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COMMUNICATIONS



What do you feel about the current level of information, advertising, promotion, document design and opportunities to have your say?

ROADING



Should road investment be prioritised on how much they are used? What should happen with roads and bridges that serve only one or a few properties?

POLICY AND STRATEGY



Should Council continue to advocate on behalf of the District? Should we develop local Policies that are not legally required?

COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



Should we have a role in supporting community and business development? Is the Pride of Place Fund important? Should funding be set aside for certain community facilities and services?

Should we continue with food scrap collection and waste education? Do we have too many small Transfer Stations. Should we reduce the number of street bins?

RUBBISH AND RECYCLING



Should we continue investing in destination marketing and leading national and regional tourism partnerships? What should we do with the mobile and Taumarunui isites?

TOURISM AND VISITOR SERVICES



Should we have climate change and sustainability strategies and policies? Should we be measuring our carbon footprint? Should we be working on regional climate change planning?

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Should we have a role in supporting youth development? Do you support having a Youth Council? Should ratepayers be funding youth leadership and skill development?

You can pick-up a paper copy of the questions from any Council office

COMMUNITY AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES



Do we have too many public toilets? Could we reduce mowing on berms and lower user reserves? How many halls and swimming pools do we need? Should we be expanding walking and cycling trails?

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Should we undertake economic development? If so, should we be doing it ourselves or have shared services with another council as we currently do?

LIBRARIES



Do we have too many libraries? Should we buy fewer books and have more digital services? Should the library have user fees? Could we reduce library opening hours? What library services could we maintain, increase, decrease or stop?

Scrapping iwi-council agreements ‘another blow’ for Māori: says Mariekura

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporting

Ngāti Rangi says the Government decision to remove protections for Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements (MWāR) undermines promises made in its Treaty settlement and raises doubts over the Crown’s commitment to rebuilding its relationship with iwi.

Te Tōtarahoe o Paerangi chair Tomairangi Mareikura said the move undermined years of collaborative work between iwi and local councils and was a significant setback for Treaty relationships.

“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,” Mareikura said.

The decision had left the iwi “dispirited and demoralised”.

“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.”

Ngāti Rangi has been working with Ruapehu, Whanganui and Rangitikei district councils and Horizons Regional Council to establish a formal role in planning and environmental decision-making through a MWāR.

The criticism follows changes to Resource Management Act (RMA) replacements, the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill.

The Bills were reported back by the Environment Select Committee to Parliament this week, which removed protections for MWāR after Cabinet reconsidered the policy.

Guardrails

The Government had initially planned for MWāR to transfer to the new RMA system, but RMA Reform Minister Chris Bishop said on Monday last week that the agreements giving iwi a formal role in planning decisions would be scrapped.

Councils would instead have the option of entering into new “narrowly scoped” iwi participation agreements, setting out how iwi authorities take part in statutory planning processes and those that give effect to Treaty settlements.

“Clear guardrails will be included in the legislation to prevent scope creep,” Bishop said.

Mareikura said the move reflected the growing influence of lobbying groups over public policy, highlighting the recently passed Game Animal (Herds of Special Interest) Amendment Bill as another example.



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

Farmers take credit

Federated Farmers took credit for the Government scrapping of the council-iwi agreements. In a statement, Federated Farmers said it called on the Government to end the rush by councils to sign Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements.

“We’re really pleased the Government has listened,” Federated Farmers RMA Reform spokesperson Mark Hooper said.

Ngāti Rangi settled its historical Treaty claims in 2018. In settlement legislation, the Crown acknowledged it had failed to honour its Treaty partnership with the iwi and committed to rebuilding the relationship “based on Te Tiriti o Waitangi and its principles”.

Mareikura said the policy reversal breached that commitment by disregarding agreements negotiated in good faith with local government.

It “significantly undermines” the settlement process, she said.

Spirit of co-operation

Mareikura said the agreements had enabled collaboration on cultural heritage protection, climate resilience, environmental management and data sharing.

“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.”

Horizons chair Nikki Riley said the regional council had received “an awful lot” of iwi requests to initiate agreements “in a very short time”.

“The bulk of our iwi would have been looking to engage in MWāR prior to yesterday’s decision,” Riley said on Tuesday.

However, no agreements had yet been completed.

“We have MOUs and simpler versions of iwi agreements that we’ve been working on for many years, but no initiations had been formally received by council. Staff had been working on them and a lot of work had gone into them.”

Riley said she was confident there would be a new pathway for iwi-council engagement.

“What that looks like, I don’t know. We’re all in limbo until these laws are passed. It’s difficult to see a pathway for-

Turn to Page 10



Te Tōtarahoe o Paerangi chair Tomairangi Mareikura says years of work with local councils has been undermined, setting back relationships with the Crown. Photo: Tuakana Te Tana.



Horizons Regional Council chair Nikki Riley says most iwi in the region would have sought a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe arrangement. Photo: Tuakana Te Tana.

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NOMINATE SOMEONE WHO MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

RUAPEHU BULLETIN 29 July 2026 • 7

Manaakitanga on the streets of Ohakune

By Nicolas Schneyer
Kaimahi (support staff) from Ngāti Rangī were outside New World in Ohakune on Monday with a koha kai stand, grilling sausages and handing out sandwiches free of charge to anyone passing by on a sunny afternoon.

Rua Eagle, who leads Te Whare Āhuru, Ngāti Rangī's housing programme, was among those present. Asked about the initiative, she said warmly: "Our mahi is to provide for the wider community."

The stand was organised by Ngā Waihua o Paerangi, Ngāti Rangī's charitable trust, and more specifically by Pae Whakakā, one of five operational teams through which the trust delivers services to whānau and the wider community. Pae Whakakā's kaimahi work as kaiārahi and navigators, walking alongside whānau to help them work towards their own goals, whether that's around housing, finances, or simply staying connected.

This is also the team that carries Whānau Ora into the community locally. Whānau Ora is a national government initiative launched in 2010, backed by an initial \$134.3 million in funding over four years. It works through provider collectives and, since 2014, through regional commissioning agencies, with kaiārahi and navigators delivering support directly to whānau.



Free sausages were there for the taking outside New World on Monday, part of Ngāti Rangī's charitable trust activities. Photo: Nicolas Schneyer.

At its core, Pae Whakakā is about accompanying whānau through the hardships they can face, at every stage of life, and making a concrete difference on a local scale, as close as possible to whānau themselves.

Over the years, the team has lent a careful ear to what whānau in Ruapehu actually need. Past projects have included funding for multiple kaupapa and business projects held by local whānau. Alongside this, Te Uru Ahupūtea offers financial literacy support, Te Whare Āhuru focuses on housing, and Whānau Manahou rounds out the team's work with whānau across the rohe.

New mental health teams announced

Mental Health Minister Matt Doocey has recently announced the remaining six locations for new mental health co-response teams, marking another step in the Government's rollout of a better crisis response for New Zealanders experiencing mental distress.

The locations include MidCentral and Whanganui, which covers the Rangitikei Electorate.

"We're transforming the way emergency services respond to people in mental distress by ensuring more New Zealanders receive a mental health response, rather than a criminal justice response when they call 111," Mr Doocey says.

"It is utterly unacceptable that, for too long, when a concerned mum, dad, friend or colleague calls 111 looking for a mental health response, they have received a criminal justice response. New Zealanders deserve better."

Rangitikei MP Suze Redmayne supports the move.

"This is welcome news for Rangitikei. Co-response teams are already making a real difference across New Zealand. The evidence shows a reduction in the use of powers under the Mental Health Act, fewer people needing to go to an emergency department or police station, and an increase in wraparound support for people in distress."

Doocey said that Budget 2025 funded ten new co-response teams, tripling the number available across the country.

Turn to Page 12



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Breathing new life into Whakapapa Holiday Park

Warm and welcoming – that’s the new feel at Whakapapa Holiday Park lodge following a major refresh signalling a new era of investment in Whakapapa Village and Tongariro National Park, says DOC project manager Jeremy Gadd.

The holiday park is owned by the Department of Conservation (DOC), and operates under management agreement with Te Hokinga Limited.

Gadd says the transformation of the lodge includes insulation and effective heating solutions, along with a new paint job and a refreshed interior.

“It’s a far more welcoming and comfortable place for visitors, somewhere you’d want to return to at the end of the day after exploring the park,” he says.

“We’re incredibly fortunate to have worked with so many valued partners, including Dulux, whose paint sponsorship helped make this project possible.”

The 32-bed lodge is popular with school groups and other large parties seeking affordable, on-site accommodation in the heart of Whakapapa Village.

Te Hokinga Ltd Director

Te Ngaehe Wanikau says the refurbishment reflects a shared commitment to caring for one of Aotearoa’s most significant places.

“Tongariro National Park holds a special place in the hearts of our people, and we want visitors to enjoy an experience that reflects the mana of this landscape,” says Wanikau.

“We are proud to be part of a partnership investing in the future of Whakapapa Village and supporting people to connect with this remarkable place.”

DOC Tongariro operations manager Libby O’Brien says Tongariro National Park is special and warrants continued investment.



DOC project lead Jeremy Gadd with Te Hokinga Ltd director Te Ngaehe Wanikau at the completion of the upgrades. Photo: DOC.



Exterior reno, before and after: a lick of paint and some fresh glazing. Photo: Citycare Property.

“This project demonstrates what can be achieved when we work collectively, to enhance visitor experiences in a dual World Heritage national park.

“We want every visitor to have a positive and memorable experience, wherever they go in the park,” says O’Brien. “That’s what we’re working towards.”



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Scrapping iwi-council agreements 'another blow'



Horizons councillor Elijah Pue says the Government's change will diminish Māori voice in environmental planning decisions. Photo: Tuakana Te Tana. From Page 7

ward until that RMA replacement lands."

Diminished voice

Horizons councillor Elijah Pue said the change diminishes Māori voice.

"It returns us back to iwi participation agreements established in the 70s and 80s. It didn't work then, it certainly doesn't work now and it's not going to work in the future."

The decision was a reaction to "fear-mongering and suspicion" that the agreements line iwi pockets with money, Pue said.

"There is no money in it. This is about including those people from that community in regulatory processes for the better of the environment. There is nothing else in it for Māori."

Pue acknowledged there had been some issues with iwi participation in regulatory processes.

"In some cases it has become quite cumbersome for some applicants. That is no reason to throw the baby out with the bathwater.

"Our community knows what's right for our community. We don't need to be told by Wellington and certainly not by this Government what's right and wrong. It brings into question the role and function of local government altogether."

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

Ohakune Squash

Twenty one teams have registered for an Ohakune Squash Club business house teams competition to be run over the next seven weeks. After a registration and practice run last Thursday, teams have been split into three pools and matches start this Thursday as per the draw on the club Facebook page.

The club is hosting a doubles tournament this weekend with several out-of-town players entered.

Next week several players are away in Christchurch either playing in the New Zealand secondary school champs or traveling as supporters. Ruapehu College is sending three teams for the first time. The girls A team is seeded second with the girls B team seeded tenth.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Ngā Waihua o Paerangi Trust August Clinics

By appointment/drop In

Personal health nurse - appointments are available on request in Raetihi or Ohakune, contact Donna 027 491 2183- (free cervical screening)

SERVICES AVAILABLE

Kaupapa Māori mental health and addictions (Rebecca)

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After hours emergencies – mental health assessment & treatment team 0800 653 358

Whānau Ora (Tina, Darnella, Sylvia, Virginia)

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Advice and advocacy support

Support for GP practice

Tamariki Ora (Tina and Katherine)

Well child checks for pēpi 0-5 years

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Bowel Screening

If you have any queries relating to the bowel screening project, please contact Darnella Hawira 0272 455 278, Darnella.Hawira@ngatirangi.com

He Puna Ora (Toni-Renee)

Building capability and knowledge within māma, using mātauranga Māori as a solution to support change. Improve the well-being of children by addressing the needs of māma and strengthening the whānau environment. Every Monday, 11am – 2pm at Ngati Rangi Health Centre.

Offices Closed

All offices will be closed on Wednesday 12 August due to Hauora Day.

Ear Clinic

Ear suction clinic Wednesday 19 August from 9am – 2.30pm. Please call Katherine to book an appointment.

Appointments/More Information Contact Admin

Mon-Fri- 8.30am-5pm 06 3859 580/0, 0274 758 347 or email Katherine.Herewini@ngatirangi.com

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Section 101, Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012

Wicked Edge Limited has made an application to the District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council for the **Renewal and Variation of an On Licence** in respect of the premises situated at **4 Thames Street, Ohakune** known as **The Kitchen**. The variation refers to the following: **Extension of the licenced area to include the outdoor area at the rear of the premises**. The general nature of the business to be conducted under the licence is that of a **Restaurant/Tavern**. The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is intended to be sold under the licence are:

Monday - Sunday: 8.00am – 2.00am the following day.

Alfresco Dining: Monday – Sunday: 9.00am – 10.00pm.

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 renewal of a licence may be made in relation to a matter other than a matter specified in section 131 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

This is the first publication of this notice.

BUSINESS NOTICES

Waimarino Health Shuttle

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PUBLIC NOTICES



TRIENNIAL OWNERS GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Triennial Owners General Meeting of Ngāporo Waimarino Forest Trust will be held.

Friday, 28 August 2026.

Pūtiki Marae – 30 Takarangī Street, Putiki, Whanganui.

Registration: from 7:30am.

Meeting Time: 9:00am – 1:00pm

AGENDA

1. Apologies.
2. Previous Triennial Owners General Meeting Minutes.
3. Chair's Report.
4. Committee Reports.
5. Financial Reports.
6. Appointment of Auditor.
7. Appointment of Accountant.
8. Trustee Elections (3 vacancies: Paora Haitana, Johanne Patel, and Oriwia Hohaia-Hall).
9. General Business.

Owners materials can be collected at 166 Wicksteed St, Whanganui 4500 (the Office) from 8 August 2026 or from www.ngaporowaimarino.com. Owners are invited to submit General Business through the Secretary at secretary@ngaporowaimarino.co.nz or 06 345 1166 by 7 August 2026. Trustee Nomination forms can be obtained from the Office or www.ngaporowaimarino.com for submission to the Secretary from 9:00am 24 July 2026 to 9:00am 7 August 2026.

Ngā manaakitanga,
Tāwhiao McMaster, Chair

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BUSINESS NOTICES



Ruapehu Mayor Weston Kirton

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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 second publication of this notice. The first notice was published on 22 July 2026.

www.ohakune.info

Deadline for all advertising bookings and copy is

5pm Fridays!

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

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Earthmoving Limited
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WAIMARINO BULLETIN

VOICE OF THE RUAPEHU REGION
Tuesday 29 July 1986. Volume 4 No. 9

**JUNCTION
SKI SHOP**
We are your ski professionals.
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P.O. BOX 21 OHAKUNE JUNCTION PH 58-361

Regional community centre

Plans to set up a Waimarino resource centre to assist young people had an encouraging start with a successful meeting in Raetihi last week.

About 65 people, including representatives of the Wanganui Area Health Board, Departments of Social Welfare, Justice, Maori Affairs, Police, Labour, the clergy, the prison parole board and residents, met and discussed the issue in a very positive atmosphere.

The idea of the centre grew out of the awareness that young people in the Waimarino have few recreational and cultural facilities. There is also no base where community court sentences, such as periodic detention, can be carried out, nor for works skill development programmes.

The project is intended to provide job skills training and to help people find work. It will also offer further education and be a base for the REAP community education programmes, as well as Maori arts and crafts, Maatua Whangai and counselling services.

Stella Mills, a spokesperson for the group setting up the centre, said she was thrilled with the response of the community.

"People in Raetihi were very positive in what they wanted to do - we wouldn't have got anywhere without their support," she said.

She said it was the first time that all the relevant government departments had assembled representatives in Raetihi and Bill Emerson, regional superintendent for the probation service in Wellington, even flew back from Australia to be there. Judge Unwin from Wanganui and Raetihi mayor Garrick Workman also attended.

The Minister of Social Welfare and Police, Mrs Anne Hercus, sent her support.

The district probation officer from Taihape, Tony Ellis, said the meeting was most successful. He said that a real cross-section of the community attended the meeting, including young people themselves.

Adam Haitana spoke on behalf of young people and said that they had fears of where they were at and where they were going. He felt that the resource centre would help young people.

George Chan of Raetihi said that if the people of Raetihi could raise \$20,000 for a rescue helicopter then surely they could get behind the resource centre to help the community's youth.

The main objectives of the meeting, to get a name, set up a committee and to develop a sense of urgency in the community were achieved.

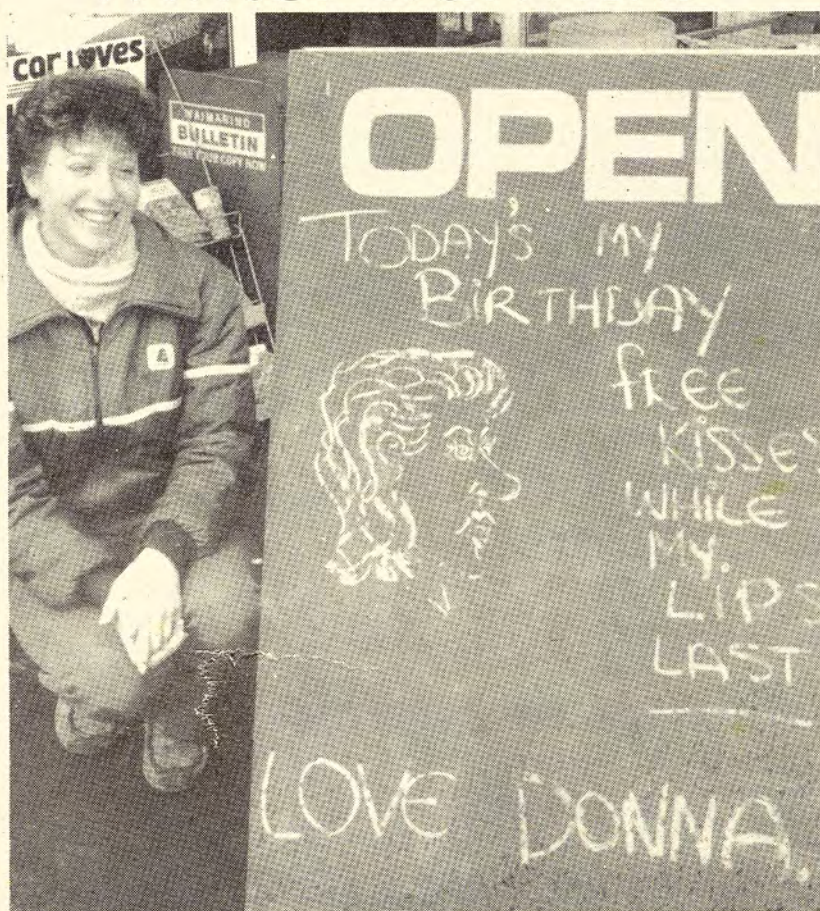
The Waimarino Community Centre committee includes Stella and Darcy Mills, Noel Akapita, Adam Haitana and Pastor Henry Chase.

Tony Ellis said that it was important to set the organisation up formally so that government departments had a focus to channel assistance to. It was however a community resource to be run by the community.

The meeting decided that it was essential to immediately look for a place to set up the centre. It had been suggested that the Winstone Afforestation Ltd office in Raetihi, which is up for sale, might have been suitable. This is however likely to be too expensive and other venues are being investigated.

Mrs Mills said that if anyone knew of any premises which might be suitable, and which were not too expensive, would they please inform committee members. The sooner a venue was found the sooner they could begin the work of trying to keep young people out of the law courts.

Winter warmth?



It was Donna Watchman's birthday last week and Cedar Service Station's well-known blackboard in Ohakune contained an appropriate message. Donna was persuaded, with difficulty, to pose. Happy birthday Donna!

Ohakune street attacks

Muggings came to Ohakune last week when several residents were attacked on the streets.

A local person was walking home from work along Miro Street at 9.15pm when he was allegedly confronted and beaten by two youths. The man was bruised and grazed and his jacket, shoes and chequebook were taken.

Soon after, a Ruapehu Radio staff member was allegedly punched when leaving the Ohakune Hotel and some beer was taken.

Another incident took place outside AHI Turoa Skifields office further down Clyde Street.

Ohakune police arrested two local youths, aged 16 and 15, early Friday morning.

The 16-year old appeared in the Taihape children's court on Friday afternoon charged with robbery. The 15-year old will appear in the Ohakune children's court on 19 August charged with assault and theft.

Jubilee booklet

Ohakune Borough's 75th jubilee is coming up at the end of this year and preparations are going well.

The jubilee booklet, which will be of interest to many, will contain historical articles and photographs of the town.

The booklet is being prepared now and needs advertising. These will help finance the publication and firms wishing to advertise should let the organisers know this week.

If you wish to advertise please contact Vera Donnelly at the Ohakune Kindergarten, phone 58-383, or Catherine Dodd at the Ruapehu Region Information Office, phone 58-151.

Water scheme options

Solving the problem of Ohakune Borough's water supply has been taken a step further with a council decision to approach the government for finance.

In a recent decision by council it was decided to proceed with water treatment by stages and to get the proposal under way as soon as possible as government subsidies may well be dropped.

Ohakune's water is of doubtful quality according to Health Department tests and World Health Organisation standards and the council is obliged to do something about it.

Cr Mike Wiggins, chairman of the council's works and reserves committee, said that the proposed stages would be disinfection of water, which the council had to carry out, filtration, duplication of mains, and reservoirs if need be.

The favoured option would be along the lines of a proposal offered by MacEwans Machinery Ltd, which would include an in-line chlorinator and filtration.

The proposal indicates that the chlorinator and filters would be placed near McLean's Clearing, about two kilometres up the Ohakune Mountain Road. The chlorinator would be about 800 metres below McLean's

clearing, to allow sufficient pressure to drive it.

The combined cost of the two projects is estimated to be \$272,000, not including costs of GST, land or environmental impact reports.

Cr Wiggins said council had yet to decide whether to do stages 1 and 2 together, which would be cheaper than doing them separately.

Part of the problem was establishing water use, as figures used in the past were not accurate. Figures used at present for instance assume there are 10 carrot washers in operation when in fact there are now only five.

Water use is to be metered to get accurate readings

which will indicate whether large reservoirs are needed. This will influence the cost of the project.

Cr Wiggins said that a major point was that if the water was filtered, thus taking out most solids, then less disinfection would be needed.

"From what local people have said to me about the water issue it is clear that they want the least tampering with the water that is possible, and we are trying to do that," he said.

Council representatives are to meet with the Wanganui Area Health Board and the borough's consulting engineers as soon as possible.

MOBILE CURTAIN SHOWROOM

Our mobile curtain showroom and experienced home consultant Mrs Dixie Ander is regularly in your area. For a completely free of charge and no obligation visit contact Wanganui 57-778 (collect) or the Raetihi Hotel 54-016. We can advise on all aspects of home decoration, all our work is guaranteed and remember to enquire about our special offers on all customer orders.

PHONE NOW FOR AN APPOINTMENT



148 Guyton St, Wanganui
Open Saturday Mornings



Seven injured in serious car accident

Seven people were injured, one critically, in a two-car collision in Ohakune on Saturday night.

The cars collided at the intersection of Clyde and Ayr Streets outside the Ohakune Borough Council chambers at about 9.45pm.

The Ohakune volunteer

fire brigade was called and treated minor injuries. Those with more serious injuries were taken to Waimarino and Taumarunui Hospitals.

One car contained three soldiers and one civilian from Waiouru, while occupants of the other were from Ohakune.



Skiing the Sky Waka: Mt Ruapehu's skifields are looking very good at this stage of the season, in contrast to the last few years. Photo: Whakapapa.

Property Brokers ^B

Rangataua 26 Miharo Street

Open Home



Timeless Lockwood charm

Positioned on a generous, flat 1,012sqm (more or less) section, this inviting three-bedroom Lockwood home offers the perfect blend of warmth, character, comfort, and lifestyle. Step inside and you'll immediately appreciate the timeless appeal of the natural timber interior, where an open fire sits at the heart of the home, creating a cosy gathering place through the cooler months. The open-plan kitchen, dining, and living spaces flow effortlessly to a north-facing, partially covered macrocarpa deck, perfect for entertaining, relaxing with family and friends, or simply soaking up the peaceful surroundings.

3 1 1

For Sale \$390,000

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Sat 8 Aug 1.00 - 1.30pm

Web pb.co.nz/OHU231156



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School's booming name snow gun

A local school's long-standing connection with Mt Ruapehu has been recognised, after winning Whakapapa Ski Area's 2026 "Name a Snow Gun" competition.

Hayley Brown, a teacher at Kuratau School, submitted the winning entry, nominating the school in recognition of its special history with the maunga.

"For generations, Kuratau School students have travelled to Whakapapa to learn to ski and snowboard in Happy Valley, with thousands of young people taking their first turns on snow through the school's ski programme," says Whakapapa Ski Area marketing manager Phil Lemalu.

"Inspired by this enduring tradition, Whakapapa's newest snow gun has officially been named 'Kuratau Cannon'.

"The Kuratau Cannon now stands proudly in Happy Valley, where it will help

produce snow for the next generation of beginner skiers and snowboarders, while celebrating the school's contribution to introducing young New Zealanders to the mountains."

Lemalu said the competition attracted a range of creative entries, but Kuratau School's story stood out.

"The connection between Kuratau School and Happy Valley spans generations. So many young people have experienced snow for the first time through school trips, and it's fitting that one of our snow guns now celebrates that legacy. We congratulate Hayley and the Kuratau School community on their winning entry."

Visitors are encouraged to keep an eye out for the Kuratau Cannon next time they're in Happy Valley and snap a photo when they spot it.



Hayley Brown, Kuratau School, pictured with the 'Kuratau Cannon' and one of her pupils. Photo supplied.

New mental health teams announced

From Page 8

"Before this investment, there were just five teams; when the rollout is complete, there will be fifteen. That's a significant expansion that will ensure more New Zealanders can access the right support.

"What's particularly important about this next phase is that many of these locations will serve our rural communities. We know people living in rural New Zealand can face additional barriers to accessing support, whether that's longer travel distances or more limited access to the range of mental

health services available in urban areas.

"These communities know what works best for them. The new Co-Response Teams will be designed to meet the unique needs of the locations. Health and Police will work together to tailor their approach for the district and community.

"These locations were selected based on demand and need, using data including emergency department presentations, crisis contacts, engagement with specialist mental health services and suicide statistics.