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Pureora
Kākā
P2**



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pal's
100th
P4**



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bridges
for cycle
trail
P5**



**Ruapehu
rally
returns
P7**

'We've been rushed': Ruapehu backs away from merger plan

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporter

Ruapehu has decided against entering the Government's voluntary Head Start process.

Councils have until 9 August to come up with a proposal for merging neighbouring councils into unitary authorities.

Ruapehu councillors voted unanimously against submitting a Head Start proposal. They will instead focus on developing a Backstop proposal.

"I thought that going to Backstop would be a fail but in hindsight [Head Start] was a big ask," said the mayor Weston Kirton.

"We've been rushed and it's not appropriate."

Under the Backstop process, the Government will step in to ensure reform still happens.

Kirton said every council he had spoken to in close proximity to Ruapehu was entering Backstop.

"I don't think we should beat ourselves up. It's a long game, it's a marathon, and this signals to the government that you can't rush an amalgamation decision."

The reform aims to replace city, district and regional councils with a smaller number of unitary councils that take on regional council functions from 2028.

Three-quarters of survey respondents

LD Local Democracy Reporting

wanted Ruapehu to take the lead through the Head Start pathway, which will decide new arrangements from the October 2028 local elections.

But Wednesday's decision moves Ruapehu into the Backstop process after the 2028 elections, to set arrangements from 2031.

In May, the Government gave councils three months to put forward proposals for amalgamating with at least one other council to form a regional unitary authority.

Councils who choose not to be involved will be merged into unitary authorities through a mandatory Backstop process.

Detail on the Backstop process is not expected before 2027.

A report to councillors in Taumarunui on Wednesday said at least two councils needed to agree to submit a Head Start proposal together.

No offers to Ruapehu

Despite engaging with its community, iwi partners and neighbouring councils, no council has approached Ruapehu about joining a Head Start proposal.

Turn to Page 3

Avalanche dogs bound around the Ruapehu snow



Blair Watson with his avalanche dog Rudy, at the North Island winter training camp held at Whakapapa and Ohakune on 25-26 July. Blair, an ex-ski patroller, is now studying in Wellington but still volunteering, with Rudy. Seven avalanche dog teams gathered for two days of intensive training, learning, and teamwork. "While Mother Nature certainly tested us with heavy snow and a closed ski area, it also created a unique opportunity," says Search and Rescue Dogs Avalanche (SARDA). Whakapapa Ski Area allowed them access to Happy Valley for their training (despite being closed), allowing them to train in an alpine environment. "It was an invaluable experience for both our handlers and dogs, and one we haven't been able to achieve in the North Island for many years." The Saturday was focused on mountain-based training, with workshops covering communication, briefing and search management, balance in searching, and "staying with the find". "Despite the challenging conditions, the team adapted throughout the day, finishing with additional obedience exercises." On the Sunday, the focus shifted to classroom presentations and practical training, including obedience assessments and targeted control exercises designed to push handlers and dogs while identifying valuable takeaways for future training. Dogs are not allowed in NZ's national parks but certified avalanche dogs have special permission. Photo: Phil Couch.

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‘Weaver of dreams’ puts focus on Pureora

Tama Blackburn sees himself as a weaver, bringing together the many strands of passion and care for the Pureora Forest Park and surrounding areas, to produce something everyone is proud of.

Tama, 41, is DOC’s project co-lead for Pureora, a relatively new role in the department’s Maniapoto team. He’s focused on developing a long-term vision and plan for the forest, a noted biodiversity hotspot and popular recreation location for people who go naturing.

In the North-east of the Ruapehu District, Pureora is significant to various iwi and stakeholders, including district and regional councils.

“The attraction of this role was the enormity and complexity of it,” Tama says.

“It’s not just the Pureora Forest Park, it’s the surrounding areas too.”

Tama’s initial focus is on developing relationships and understanding the various factors influencing longer-term management and protection of the forest.

He’s in close contact with staff from Horizons Regional Council, Waikato Regional Council and Waikato River Authority, Te Awa Tupua, as well as representatives from several iwi: Te Nehenehenui, Raukawa, Te Kōtahitanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa, and Ngāti Hāua.

He’s also working alongside project co-lead Kiri Diamond (Tūwharetoa), and the various DOC treaty partners who connect to Pureora.

“We’re calling this the discovery phase,” he says.

“The aspiration for the project is for our Treaty partners and communities to lead how we manage and protect Pureora to bring it all together.”

Tama says it’s been a steep learning curve as he develops knowledge and understanding of what people and organisations see for the future of Pureora.

“When people ask me, ‘what is your job?’, I sum it up as ‘I am the weaver of your dreams.’

“We’re pulling in different strands and the outcome will be a korowai (cloak) with everyone’s dreams and aspira-

tions intermingling and overlapping.”

Kākā highlight

Another early highlight for Tama in his role has been helping to carry out tikanga for an injured and rehabilitated kākā, recently released back into the forest.

“I didn’t realise how rare that was. Even with the amount of wildlife there, it’s not a common thing,” he says.

The role marks Tama’s second stint with DOC, having previously worked as a ranger in the Taranaki team, assigned to the Taranaki Maunga Project both during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

With his Te Nehenehenui affiliations, the position represents a homecoming for Tama. His broader whakapapa encompasses Ngāti Maniapoto, Kinohaku, Uekaha, and Pākeha.

“Working for the Department of Conservation in Maniapoto is a deeper dive into my whakapapa,” he says.

Tama was raised in Taranaki, and his childhood memories of Maniapoto are generally limited to family events.

“Every river and mountain I’ve visited, I’ve found a connection. It’s been pretty awesome.”

Tama never expected to forge a career in conservation, but describes himself as a “nature boy”, enthusiastic about “jumping into the river at Whaitara” while growing up.

“It wasn’t until later in life those jobs in the environment came up, and I thought ‘that’s me’.”

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Reaching homes every Wednesday in Ohakune, National Park, Raetihi, Waiouru and surrounding rural areas.



Tama Blackburn with a Pureora kākā nursed back from injury. Photo: DOC.

Community and Emergency Services

Alzheimers Whanganui Inc – Email admin@alzheimerswhanganui.org.nz or for support phone 06-345 8833

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 2767)

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

Taumarunui Counselling Services: For confidential counselling in Waimarino phone 07-895-6393

Victim Support Contact Centre – 0800 842 846

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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Ruapehu Events & What’s On

AUGUST 2026

Whacky Winter Art Exhibition August
Volcano Vibe - contact Barbara for more info 027 829 8973

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 @ 7pm 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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LINK YOUR EVENT TO EVENTFINDA FOR FREE

Increased Ruapehu volcanic tremor but ‘no other changes’

During the last two weeks, volcanic tremor at Mt Ruapehu has gradually increased from weak to moderate levels. There has been minimal change in temperatures of Te Wai ā-moe (Ruapehu Crater Lake), reports GNS.

Volcanic gas emissions continue in low-to-moderate amounts. Volcanic activity remains within the range typical for minor unrest. The Volcanic Alert Level remains at Level 1.

Since 22 July the tremor intensity has gradually increased from weak to moderate levels, representing a minor change following almost two years of weak tremor levels, says Michael Rosenberg, GNS duty volcanologist.

He said it could be an early warning sign of an eruption.

“It doesn’t, by itself, mean that the volcano is going to erupt.

“It’s more like a possible early warning signal.”

“Starting early this year, small-magnitude earthquakes had been occurring beneath the volcano. They were mostly too small to locate accurately but since early July, those earthquakes appear to

have stopped altogether,” says Rosenberg.

Crater Lake temperatures have not increased overall and have remained stable for the past four months (18–23°C), with daily to weekly variability driven by day/night effects and weather events such as last week’s snowfall. During sampling visits and other reported observations, persistent upwelling is visible, sulphur slicks trail across the grey lake, and there is an ongoing small overflow though the outlet channel.

The output of volcanic sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) gases has been low to moderate relative to long-term trends.

“Our collective observations and data are consistent with a dynamic hydro-thermal system and intermittent input of volcanic gas and heat. Current activity at Mt Ruapehu is within the range.

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

No dance partner: Ruapehu backs away from merger plan



Ruapehu District Council is the latest council to step away from the Government’s voluntary Head Start amalgamation reform. From left, CEO Clive Manley (left) with elected members Viv Hoeta, Kuru Ketu, Luke Pepper, Robyn Gram, Rabbit Nottage, Brenda Ralph, Mayor Weston Kirton, John Chapman, Korty Wilson, Channey Iwikau. The council has opted to focus on developing a Backstop proposal for amalgamation over the next few years. Photo: Supplied.

Moonlight mission



“Returning home with a full moon making for a great night to aviate.” That’s how Air Crew Officer Gareth summed up the mission on Friday 30 July, when the Grassroots Trust Rescue Helicopter was tasked to Raetihi for a patient experiencing a medical event. The crew transported the patient to Whanganui Hospital for further treatment before heading home under this stunning full moon.

From Page 1

Mayors across the region have signalled they would have no joint proposal ready by the August 9 deadline.

Morrison Low Advisory assessed a range of possible groupings for the council. They included the existing Horizons footprint; a Ruapehu, Whanganui, Rangitikei and Taupō grouping; and a Ruapehu, Taupō, Waitomo, Ōtorohanga and South Waikato (King Country) grouping.

Kirton has also proposed a federated or combined-authority model, under which existing councils remain but share governance and certain functions through a joint entity, as modelled by Greater Manchester in the United Kingdom.

The report said this type of model was not available through the Head Start pathway, which requires amalgamation into a unitary authority.

The council’s iwi partners have also proposed a relationship-based approach that anchors local government in existing connections to maunga, the awa that flow from them, and the iwi, hapū and communities living along them (see separate story).

The proposal identifies Ruapehu, Whanganui, Taupō and Rangitikei as the councils serving those connected communities.

Taupō decided this week against working to the Head Start process, while Rangitikei was to meet to make its decision on Thursday last week and Whanganui was to decide on 4 August.

Community views vary

Community survey results across the wider area varied, with 58 percent of Whanganui respondents and 86 percent

of Manawātū respondents opposing amalgamation, and 84 percent of Rangitikei respondents supporting their council making a proposal.

The report said Treaty settlement arrangements applying across the area must be upheld. The council has partnership agreements with Ngāti Rangī, Ngāti Hāua, Te Nehenehenui and Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui.

The council also agreed to support a joint letter from the mayors of the Manawātū-Whanganui region and the Horizons Regional Council chair to outline a collective intention to continue working on developing options.

Councillor Kuru Ketu called for Ruapehu to also write separately to the Local Government Minister on the council’s intentions as it moves into a Backstop process.

“Council should put in a letter outlining our thinking and what we’ve been doing ... and the support from treaty partners for approaching things in a different way,” Ketu told Kirton and chief executive Clive Manley.

“You’ve had multiple hui, we’ve had multiple hui, there are a number of councils who want to keep talking to us – I don’t want that to be lost.”

Deputy Mayor Brenda Ralph and councillor Viv Hoeta backed the idea.

“A letter shows that we haven’t been doing nothing and takes into account all of the discussion. The letter needs to come from here, because we need to speak for here,” Hoeta said.

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

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Letters

Theatre support

• The Royal Theatre in Raetihi is owned and operated by the Theatre Royal (Waimarino) Charitable Trust.

At last year's AGM there were insufficient people at the meeting, so it was deferred by a week. At that meeting, we saw over 40 people attend.

The inference from those attending was that they want the theatre to continue, but that needs people to be involved.

The theatre is for the community, not the Trust, there are movies and live bands and comedy nights, and the community can use it for their own events. It has been suggested that there should be modern movies shown; the cost is \$80,000 for the equipment plus the hiring of a movie, and who would come?

With the AGM on 20 August, people need to know that support is needed to keep the theatre open, people able to commit their time to support the Trust or being a volunteer.

There needs to be a willingness from the community to support the theatre, coming to events and hiring it for a party or by becoming a friend of the theatre for an annual donation.

Over this year \$100,000 was spent on the auditorium – it's not the freeze box it once was.

Without support and on-going use, the possibility is the theatre could become another empty building on Seddon Street. Is that what you want?

For more information email to theatreroyalraetihi@gmail.com

Gary Griffin-Chappel, Trust Chairperson

Consumerism and Christians

• I am so sorry to have to pop Ben Michell's balloon, but if he thinks that all those around him in our consumer society are normal humans, (*Letters*, 29 July) then he is dead wrong: the normal people left a world for their children to live in.

In my last letter I pointed out that Aborigines, native Americans, Māori etc remained in harmony with their environment by protecting it as a living system, a system that scientists have named after the goddess Gaia. In return she protected their descendants. For example Māori placed a rahui on most trees so there were always enough large ones for the canoes of future generations.

In 1972, population-science prophets warned people world-wide of the limits to industrial and population growth. If they did not immediately reverse their consuming and overbreeding, then life after the 2020s would be, as Thomas Hobbs put it, "Poor, nasty, brutish and short" for their children's children even unto the third and fourth generations. (Deuteronomy 5:9)

As a good Christian, Mr Mitchell must know that it is wrong to kill, and that the first and greatest commandment is to love God with your whole mind, heart and soul. (Matthew 22:37)

But his "normal people," even those who called themselves Christians, responded by mindlessly, heartlessly and soullessly increasing their output of babies, greenhouse gases and persistent organic pollutants, and they are still doing it.

Every week now, the million people who die are replaced by 2 million babies, while yet another 770 million tons of greenhouse gases and 190,000 tons of toxic chemicals are released into the world.

I have written a paper, "Consumerism and Christians," ending with a contemporary look at the four horsemen of the Apocalypse. I would suggest that all readers of the *Bulletin* who think they are Christians or just good people read it carefully. (tinyurl.com/confortare)

John Archer

Is Parkrun social enough, Geoffrey Cullen?

For anyone who has walked, jogged, run or volunteered at the Mangawhero Riverwalk Parkrun in Ohakune on a Saturday morning, it would be very rare to not have met Geoffrey Cullen at the turn around point.

Saturday was event number 112, since Parkrun officially launched in Ohakune and also marked Geoffrey's 100th event as a parkrun volunteer.

Geoffrey's formative years were spent in Te Awamutu as one of six siblings, followed by a move to Christchurch to complete his university degree in Civil Engineering, then his engineering career in Auckland.

"But being stuck behind a drawing desk was not social enough for me," said Geoffrey, so he completed a Tech certificate in surveying and landed "the best job in the world" with Trust Power. After 16 years and a company restructure, Geoffrey found himself at 51 reviewing his employment prospects.

"I was lucky to retrain for my bus licence and had regular work on school bus routes."

Any opportunity to drive charter buses was welcome to add both variety and the opportunity to meet people from all over the world.

Away from work, Geoffrey played sport, particularly hockey, through to his mid 50s which also opened up opportunities for some travel to Australia and SE Asia on rep teams.

"But I also needed to keep my brain active," Geoffrey declared, "brain food!" For that, in 2000 he pursued an interest in genealogy, tracing his maternal family tree back to 1745.

Any day you may find yourself chatting over a coffee at Nook, or in the library, and learning about the 800-plus maritime deaths in Cook Strait, or a history of power companies in NZ, or living off grid in Horopito.

"Oh that's the best move I ever made" says Geoffrey.

And that's how he also found a niche as a volunteer at "a walk in the park on Saturdays" (Parkrun) chatting to the athletes beforehand, overseeing the turnaround post and cheering in the tail-enders as they finish.

"Geoffrey is the first of our parkrun volunteers to have reached the 100 volunteer milestone. We salute you, Geoffrey!" says Parkrun Ohakune's Jennie Murray.

Parkrun is a welcoming, inclusive and positive community event for people of all abilities, from walkers to elite



Geoffrey Cullen, ace Parkrun volunteer.

runners and a super team of volunteers, without whom parkrun would not happen. Parkrun is free for everyone. The Mangawhero River Track Parkrun, Ohakune meets every Saturday at the bottom end of Ayr St at 7.50am for briefings ahead of an 8am start. It is the North Island Parkrun of the Year; best Parkrun bridge; NZ's highest altitude Parkrun; and a globally unique parkrun bridge.

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

862

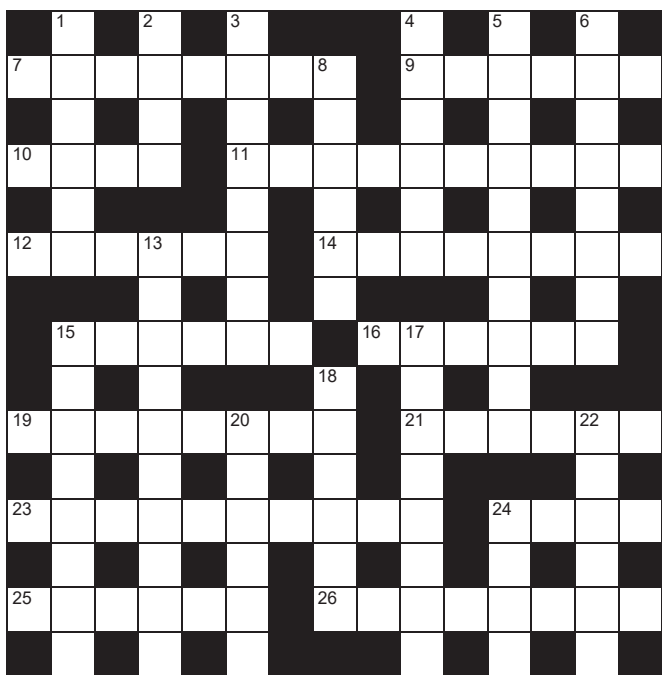
QUICK CROSSWORD

Across

- Totally uninformed (8)
- Vinegary (6)
- U.S. coin (4)
- Think again (10)
- Salvage (6)
- Clear and precise (8)
- Smart (6)
- Ship's kitchen (6)
- Fleet of ships (8)
- Appetiser (6)
- Funeral director (10)
- North Briton (4)
- Mysterious (6)
- Merchant (8)

Down

- Rinse (6)
- Sequence of DNA (4)
- Recover (8)
- Short sleep (6)
- Antibiotic (10)
- Faithfulness (8)
- Holy (6)
- Talk socially (colloq) (4,3,3)
- Relating to cooking (8)
- Factual (8)
- Supporter (6)



- Suds (6)
- Push forward (6)
- Put into words (4)



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Puzzles © The Puzzle Company

THE TOP 10

- Martindborough, 2 Julia Roberts and Hugh Grant, 3 Tom and Jerry, 4 Tail bone, 5 Hannah, 6 Wednesday, 7 Andes, 8 Dame Cindy Kiro, 9 Mexico, 10 1958.

SUDOKU

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

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

The Top 10

- Which Wairarapa town's streets are laid out in the form of a Union Jack?
- Who played the two lead roles in the film Notting Hill?
- Which cartoon animal duo made their first appearance in 1939?
- The proper name is the coccyx, but it's often called . . . ?
- Ann is the English form of which Hebrew name?
- Which day is the name of a member of the Addams family?
- Which mountain range separates Argentina and Chile?
- In 2021, who became the first Māori woman to be Governor-General?
- Tortillas are part of the staple diet of which country?
- In which year were Madonna, Michael Jackson and Prince all born?

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

CROSSWORD

- Backer, 20. Lather, 22. Propel, 24. Said.
- Chew the fat, 15. Cullinary, 17. Accurate, 13. Catnap, 5. Penicillin, 6. Fidelity, 8. Sacred, 4. Down: 1. Sluice, 2. Gene, 3. Retrieve, 4. Arcane, 26. Retailer.
- Canapé, 23. Undertaker, 24. Scot, 25.
- Clever, 16. Galle, 19. Flotilla, 21.
- Reconsider, 12. Rescue, 14. Explicit, 11. Dime, 7. Clueless, 9. Acetic, 10. Dime.

SUDOKU

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

Bridge upgrades to boost Mountains to Sea experience

By: Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporter

A major infrastructure upgrade on the Mountains to Sea - Ngā Ara Tūhono Great Ride is about to begin, with 15 new bridges and boardwalks set to be installed across the iconic Mangapurua and Kaiwhakauka sections.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is leading the project, working alongside the Ngā Ara Tūhono Charitable Trust to co-ordinate visitor communications and minimise disruption during construction.

Installation work on the Mangapurua section will take place from 1 August until mid-October 2026, in time for the Great Ride season.

Work in the Kaiwhakauka Valley will follow in November and December, with bypasses available while construction is underway.

DOC project manager Louise Brown said careful planning means most visitors will still be able to enjoy the trails while work progresses.

"Many of the bridges have been built offsite and, for the most part, existing structures will remain in use until the new bridges are completed, so you'll still be able to get out nature."

"However, there will be a couple of times where we need to close a track completely, and we'll aim to give two days' notice on our website."

The Mangapurua and Kaiwhakauka tracks are among the most remote stages of the Mountains to Sea - Ngā Ara Tūhono Great Ride, taking riders, walkers and trampers through Whanganui National Park and connecting them with the history, landscape, waterways and stories of the valleys.

The project includes a mix of aluminium truss and timber bridge replacements, along with two new boardwalks in the Kaiwhakauka Valley.

Important investment

Trust kaihautū ara/general manager Lynley Twyman said the upgrades are an important investment in preserving one of the country's most distinctive trail experiences.

"The Mangapurua and Kaiwhakauka sections are a truly special part of the journey. They offer riders and walkers a powerful sense of remoteness, history and connection - from the old valley settlements and the Bridge to Nowhere through to the Whanganui awa," Twyman said.

The Trust governs, maintains and develops the Great Ride, bringing together local iwi, the Ruapehu and Whanganui district councils and community partners.

"These bridge upgrades are not about changing the character of the experience. They are about protecting access, improving safety and making sure this remarkable journey can continue to be enjoyed into the future," Twyman said.

"This work demonstrates that although these trails are free to access, they rely on strong partnerships, ongoing

ing maintenance, and investment from agencies, councils, iwi, communities, operators and trail supporters."

Ngā Ara Tūhono Charitable Trust trustee Hayden Potaka, representing the Whanganui Māori Regional Tourism Organisation, said the Great Ride plays a vital role in supporting Māori tourism and the wider visitor economy across the region.

"Ngā Ara Tūhono is important to the ongoing development of Māori tourism and the wider visitor economy across our rohe."

He said the organisation had been working well alongside the mayors and industry representatives on the Trust.

"Strong partnerships with DOC, councils, iwi, communities and tourism operators are essential to its continued success."

Tourism link

"For tourism operators throughout the Whanganui catchment, the Mountains to Sea - Ngā Ara Tūhono Great Ride is an important link connecting the maunga, the whenua and the Whanganui Awa."

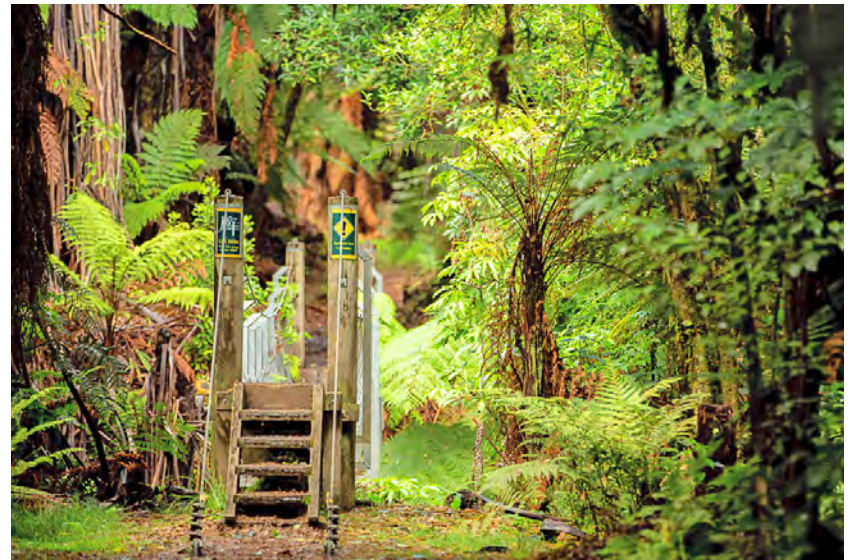
"Maintaining safe, functional and high-quality trails supports our operators, strengthens local employment and enterprise, and creates lasting benefits for the communities situated along the journey."

Potaka said the Mangapurua and Kaiwhakauka sections are especially significant because they connect visitors with the history, cultural narratives and natural environment of the rohe.

"The bridge replacement work is an important investment in maintaining safe access and ensuring these special places can continue to be experienced."

"At the same time, we must find the right balance between tourism development and protecting our taiao from the mountain to the sea."

"Success should not be measured only by increasing visitor numbers. It must also be measured by how well we



Existing bridges on the Mangapurua and Kaiwhakauka sections of the Mountains to Sea - Ngā Ara Tūhono Great Ride are set to be replaced. Photo Supplied/Mountains to Sea NZ.

protect the environment, respect the mana and stories of the whenua and awa, and ensure that our iwi, hapū, communities and local operators receive lasting benefits."

Visitors planning to use the Mangapurua and Kaiwhakauka tracks are encouraged to check the Mountains to Sea - Ngā Ara Tūhono trail status page and the DOC website before travelling, follow on-site

signage, and be aware that contractors and machinery will be operating in work areas.

The Mangapurua Track remains subject to its seasonal winter closure for cyclists from King's Birthday weekend until the Friday before Labour Weekend.

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

Meteor sighted over Tongariro



A meteor lit up the sky across the country last week, with GeoNet's volcano camera that monitors the Tongariro mountains from the north capturing the moment. Earth Sciences New Zealand has posted a video looking at what's inside a meteorite that crashed through a roof in Auckland in 2004. It is about the size of a grapefruit and weighs 1.3kg and is estimated to be 4.56 billion years old. Go to Earth Sciences NZ to find the video.

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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



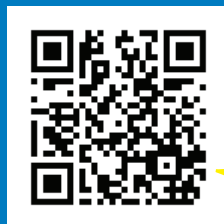
Should we continue investing in destination marketing and leading national and regional tourism partnerships? What should we do with the mobile and Taumarunui isites?

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



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



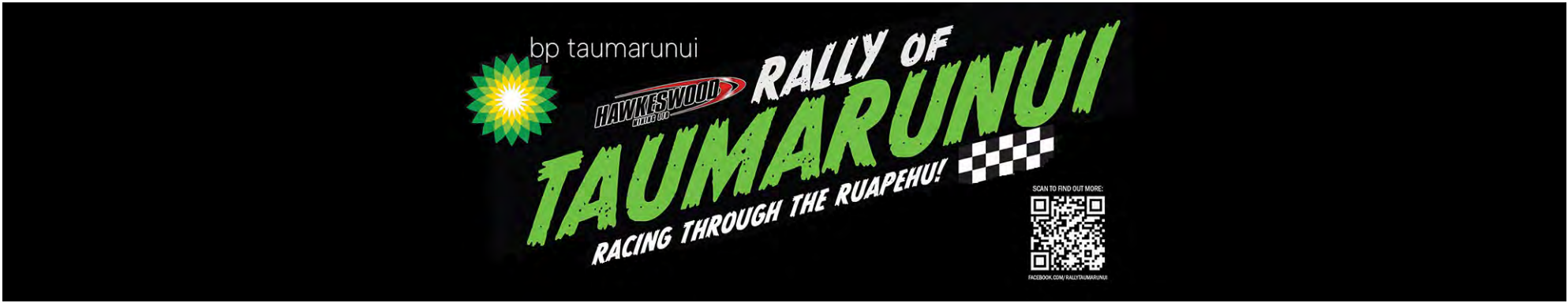
Do we have too many libraries? Should we buy fewer books and have more digital services? Should the library have user fees? Could we reduce library opening hours? What library services could we maintain, increase, decrease or stop?

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 surveys from any Council office



Rally returns to Taumarunui after 26 years



Quentin Palmer competes in the Newstead Lodge Rally of Waitomo. Photo: Chelsea Karl.

By Nicolas Schneyer

Next Saturday, 8 August, rally cars will be back on King Country roads for the first time since 1999. The BP Rally Taumarunui – Round Four of the 2026 Hawkeswood Mining North Island Rally Series – marks the return of Rally Taumarunui after 26 years away.

The event is organised by the Marathon Car Club, with the round itself promoted locally by the South Taranaki, Taihape District and Dannevirke Car Clubs. Together they’ve put together 140 kilometres of special stages across classic King Country gravel roads, split into eight National-permit stages in the morning and four afternoon stages also open to Clubman’s competitors, a mix that lets seasoned Rally2 crews and newer drivers share the same day.

A 46-car field is confirmed, and the name to watch is local driver Quentin Palmer, who leads the series standings alongside co-driver Noel Moloney in their Skoda Fabia Rally2 Evo.

“It’s a local event for us so I know

most of the roads,” Palmer said ahead of the rally.

“I’m hoping to win, but first we have got to finish.”

The action starts early. The first car leaves the Taumarunui Cosmopolitan Club carpark on Katarina Street at 8:15am, with the field expected back at the final control around 4:15pm. Spectators don’t need a ticket, entry is free, and designated viewing zones will be signposted along the route, with maps and QR codes to the best spots expected to go up on the NIRS website and Facebook closer to the day. Around town, local groups including Rotary, the volunteer fire brigade and the 4x4 club will be running food and refreshment stalls over the weekend for anyone following the cars between stages.

Whether you followed the sport back when Rally Taumarunui was last on the calendar, or you’ve never watched a rally car in your life, Saturday is worth putting in the diary. Twenty-six years is a long wait, and the King Country is about to find out it was worth it.



Andrew Keighley and Jonathan Kane (Ford Escort Mk2). Photo Chelsea Karl.





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North wants north, south wants south for council changes

By Nicolas Schneyer

On July 29, Ruapehu District Council settled a question it had been sitting with for weeks: how to respond to the central government's timeline for a decision on local government amalgamation. The decision followed a public hearing held the previous week, at which council had fielded questions directly from residents on the district's options.

The discussion opened not from a staff report but from submissions raised by the community, and two threads stood out.

The first came from Waiouru, where speakers advocated for a link toward the south of the region, pointing to existing medical service ties with Palmerston North as the practical basis for

that preference. Engagement on this point was wide in Waiouru, even though the timeframe for making submissions had left little room for a fuller process, and too little time to organise a petition.

The second thread ran the opposite direction. Speakers invoked the Kīngitanga and its historic connection northward, framing the question as one of identity rather than convenience.

One submitter put the contrast plainly, asking what the Ruapehu District's identity had in common with Palmerston North.

At the centre of the resolution was council's acknowledgement that Government had allowed too short a timeframe to work out a genuine head-start proposal.

But councillors were clear that the default backstop arrangement would not mean letting Government have the final say.

Rather than accept that outcome, they agreed to send a letter to the Crown asking for more time, on two grounds. First, the scale of community engagement to date demonstrates how much weight residents place on the decision. Second, consultation is still active both within the district and between neighbouring districts, and council considers that process unfinished.

Much of the meeting's debate turned on a narrower but consequential question: should the letter go out under the council's own name, or jointly with Horizons Regional Council?

Members settled on sending it as a district. Attaching the region to the letter, it was argued, would have effectively signalled a boundary drawn toward the south, at odds with the fact that most of the district's own discussions so far have run northward.

The mayor, Weston Kirston considers that government has effectively set districts up to fail by giving them so little notice to weigh in. Even so, he said, council does not intend to let Wellington make the decision by default. Sending the letter as a district, rather than folding it into a regional position, was itself part of that stance: it keeps the door open rather than committing Ruapehu to one boundary before the conversation with its neighbours has run its course.



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Iwi plan to reshape councils around mountains and rivers

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporter

A group of central North Island iwi has unveiled a proposal to reorganise local government around the region's mountains, river catchments and the communities connected to them.

Discussions between Ruapehu District Council, iwi partners and local communities have ramped up in the last week as the first deadline looms in the Government's local government reform programme.

The iwi proposal, known as Te Kāhui Maunga, was developed by iwi that have settled their Treaty claims and covers the areas currently served by the Ruapehu, Whanganui, Taupō and Rangitikei district councils.

The concept was presented to a council and iwi partners workshop last week and then formally introduced at community meetings in Raetihi and Taumarunui.

Presenting the proposal, Ruapehu district councillor Kuru Ketu described Te Kāhui Maunga (the cluster of mountains) as an iwi-led approach to amalgamation centred on the central plateau's mountains, the rivers flowing from them, and the communities that rely on those landscapes.

"From there, we would look at the councils that service those areas. This is why the approach works in a local context – when we're talking about the criteria for Head Start, every element has strong legislative direction to provide for the settlements that relate to the Te Kāhui Maunga area."

Values base

Ketu described the proposal as "a values-based conceptual approach."

Under the Government's Simplifying Local Government reforms, councils have until 9 August to decide whether they will submit a proposal for structural change under the voluntary Head Start process.

The Government has directed councils to pursue amalgamation or alternative governance models, such as unitary authorities, with neighbouring authorities.

Any proposal must meet criteria set by the Government including demonstrating how it would improve local representation, service delivery, financial sustainability

and long-term planning.

Speaking at a community hui in Taumarunui on Thursday, Ketu said the proposal called for bespoke legislation reflecting the region's unique legal and cultural framework, including legislation relating to Te Waiū-o-te-ika under the Ngāti Rangi Claims Settlement Act 2019, Te Awa Tupua under the Te Awa Tupua (Whanganui River Claims Settlement) Act 2017 and Te Ture Whaimana, the vision and strategy for the Waikato River.

He said those statutory frameworks already provided direction for district and regional council functions that could transfer to a future unitary authority.

The collective iwi proposal aligns closely with an option for a new unitary authority comprising the Ruapehu, Whanganui, Rangitikei and Taupō districts.

The iwi proposal was first raised during a community meeting in May and developed during iwi partners workshops in May and June.

The iwi involved include Maniapoto, Ngāti Rangi, Ngāti Hāua, Te Korowai o Wainuiārua (representing Uenuku, Tamakana and Tamahaki), and Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui (NTT), representing iwi and hapū of the Whanganui River.

It encompasses the mountains and ranges of Tongariro, Ruapehu, Ngāuruhoe, Hauhungatahi, Pihanga, Hikurangi, Tuhua, Tauhara, the Kaimanawa Ranges, Titirau-penga and Aoraki, along with waterways including the Waikato, Taupō-nui-a-Tia, Rotoaira, Whanganui, Whangaehu, Ōngāroa, Mangawhero and Hautapu rivers and lakes, among others.

It also identifies other iwi with interests across those landscapes, including Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngā Hapū o Te Iwi o Whanganui and Mōkai Patea Nui Tonu.

Treaty partnerships

The proposal outlines Treaty settlement partnerships already established with councils across the region. Those settlements had shaped the approach to the future of local government, Ketu said.

"We've been told very clearly that this reform requires us to look at local govern-



Iwi have submitted a formal proposal to Ruapehu District Council that outlines a council amalgamation model centred on the region's mountains. Photo: Moana Ellis.

ment reform completely differently. I wouldn't want to see us replicating the current system in different clothing."

He said the model could meet the Government's eligibility criteria by maintaining local representation and meeting the requirement for deliverability.

"The deliverability of workstreams by a new entity can only be achieved with iwi at the table."

Ketu said the model would bring economy of scale, strategic partnerships and the ability to optimise outcomes for various communities, but more work was needed to flesh out the concept.

NTT kaihautū Nancy Tuaine said iwi had been thinking more widely than councils for a long time.

"We've been participating in decisions from the mountains to the sea. The opportunity of Head Start is about looking at what are the opportunities and where in this space are we working more broadly than the Ruapehu District Council."

"Our relationships are really strong inter-tribally within our regions. We are already aligned."

Ngā Waihua o Paerangi Trust (Ngāti Rangi) pou ārahi Helen Leahy described the proposal as "a foundational approach to the things that connect us", including a relationship to the natural world.

"It's a unified approach that will distinguish this region," Leahy said.

Ruapehu Mayor Weston Kirton said the council

was continuing to develop its position on the reforms and would look to make a decision at its meeting on Wednesday.

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

Ohakune Squash

Round one of the current Ohakune Squash Club business house round produced the following results: In pool one Rabbit beat Deer 12-8, Eagle beat Watlings 14-2, Baboon beat Crab 9-6 and Potty Mouths got 8 points for the bye. In pool two Goat beat Orange Choc Chip 17-0, Alpaca beat Horse 14-4, Frog beat Peacock 12-7 and Fatz Oysters got 8 points for the bye. In pool three Kiwi beat Jaguar 13-7, Lion beat Moose 14-5, Narwhal beat Octopus 13-6 and Ibex got 8 points for the bye. This Thursday there is a bye week for all teams because there are so many members away in Christchurch for the secondary schools team champs.

On Saturday Ohakune hosted a double tournament, run as a fundraiser to help support the upcoming Tecnifibre junior series.



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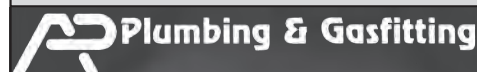


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Replacing the RMA: \$13.3 billion in savings says Bates

By Carl Bates, MP for Whanganui

Firstly, my thoughts are with everyone affected by last Saturday morning's 5.9 magnitude earthquake near Taumarunui. Kudos to Ruapehu District Council personnel who did a great job keeping people informed of road closures and other important information over the last week.

Thanks too to all those who pitched in to help as aftershocks continued to rattle the region. The response was outstanding, and the communities in the Ruapehu District showed how we support one another when needed.

Talking about supporting what we do, for too long, New Zealanders have been held back by one of the most complicated laws on the books – the Resource Management Act (RMA).

Replacing the RMA with a new planning

system that will make it easier to build is part of the National-led Government's plan for removing barriers to growth and building a stronger economy. It is an important part of how we support our productivity and economic growth.

A huge 45 per cent of consent and permit applications currently required under the RMA could be removed under the new system. That means between 15,000 and 22,000 consents will no longer be needed.

Our new planning system will deliver a generational change to both our economy, and the way we designate land, plan, and build.

The new planning system is projected to deliver a \$3.1 billion boost to GDP every year, in addition to \$13.3 billion in savings over the next thirty years. That's money back in the pockets of families, tradies and businesses.

It will also mean more growth and higher living standards for New Zealanders. These changes will mean more housing being able to be built in our region and speed up the development of critical infrastructure like roads, energy projects, hospitals and schools.

It will also back our world-class farmers and growers to get on with doing what they do best. Ultimately this is great news for farmers and tourism operators in the Ruapehu region, who have often been frustrated by seemingly endless delays in getting things done.

By making it quicker, cheaper, and easier to get things built, we grow the economy, creating more jobs and higher wages. Replacing the RMA with modern, fit-for-purpose legislation is pivotal to our plans for fixing the basics and building the future.



MP Carl Bates catches up with Ruapehu's mayor Weston Kirton after the recent Taumarunui earthquake. Photo supplied.



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FIREWOOD 4 SALE. Mixed blend, pine, wattle, lawson, \$120 per cube delivered local, two cube loads minimum, txt Jock 0273 602 700.

TANK SPECIALISTS, water or septic. Delivered price quoted. Buy direct. Ph 0800-487-633.

PUBLIC NOTICES

RAILWAY MUSEUM & OP SHOP. Open 10am-2pm Thursday - Sunday. 62 Thames St, 100m past Railway Station. Sponsored by The Ski Shed.



Ruapehu Mayor Weston Kirton

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



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

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

BUSINESS NOTICES

Ohakune Health Hub
In pain? Let us help.
Experienced care in Osteopathy, Physiotherapy, Massage and Acupuncture – effective treatment for:
- Musculoskeletal pain - headaches & concussion - post-operative recovery - and much more.

ACC registered | 77-79 Clyde St, Ohakune
Book online: www.ohakuneosteo.co.nz

Bennett's Tank Cleaning Services
Septic tanks, water tanks, grease traps.
Call us for fast efficient service.
Phone Chris on 06-388-0452.



Free Legal Advice Clinics

Raetihi Chambers
44 Seddon Street, Raetihi
Wednesday between 10am – 12pm
8 July

Ngāti Rangī Community Health Centre
Maungārongo Marae, 36A Burns Street, Ohakune
Wednesday between 1pm – 3pm
8 July

To book an appointment, call or email us with your name and contact phone number
Community Legal Advice Whanganui (CLAW)
Phone 0800 00 36 36 Email – claw@claw.co.nz

PUBLIC NOTICES

Waimarino Rodeo AGM

Thursday 13 August 6.30pm
Raetihi Cossie Club

All welcome.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ABANDONED VEHICLES POSSESSION NOTICE

To the persons registered under part 17 of the Land Transport Act 1998 in respect of the vehicles described below impounded from within the Ruapehu District pursuant to Section 356A of the Local Government Act 1974.

Vehicle ID	Make/Model	Colour	Location	Last Known Registered Owner
NYK573	2020 Ssangyong Rhino	White	Makatote Viaduct, SH4, Erua	Keven Bruce Smith
	XI Petrol Manual 2.0 Utility			

If you do not claim the vehicle within ten (10) working days, Council will sell/dispose of the vehicle. To claim your vehicle, contact Ruapehu District Council on 07 895 8188 or 06 385 8364.

PUBLIC NOTICES

KING COUNTRY TRUST

Whakarato Te Rohe Pōtae

NOTICE TO CONSUMERS, BUSINESS HOUSES AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, 20 August 2026 at 4.00pm

Conference Room at Oreti Village Resort, 88 Pukawa Road, Pukawa, Lake Taupo.

Our AGM will be held at 4.00pm followed at 4.30 pm with drinks and nibbles.

AGENDA:

- Consideration and Adoption of Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting held on 20 August 2025
- Presentation of Annual Report
- Presentation of Annual Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st March 2026
- Appointment of Auditor
- Informal General Business

CONTACT:
For any queries please:
Email: kcept@xtra.co.nz
Phone: Carla at Peak Chartered Accountants Ltd 07 895 3013

Annual Reports and Financial Statements will be available from 14 August 2026 on our website: www.kcpowertrust.co.nz

Adie Doyle - Chair

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

Raetihi Volunteer Fire Brigade AGM

Monday 24 August, 7pm
at the Raetihi Fire Station,
1 Duncan St, Raetihi

All current, past, honorary and life members are invited to attend.
Drinks and nibbles will be provided.

All welcome.

Maungarongo ki Kokiri AGM

Monday 31 August 2026 – 5.15pm
Nga kete o te wananga

All welcome.

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 second publication of this notice. The first notice was published on 29 July 2026.

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WAIMARINO OHAKUNE PUBLIC LIBRARY BULLETIN

VOICE OF THE RUAPEHU REGION
Tuesday 5 August 1986. Volume 4 No. 10

**SUNBEAM
LODGE**
licensed restaurant
& cocktail bar



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Ohakune

Security from Rural Support

Rural Support, the cousin of urban support groups such as Neighbourhood Watch and Neighbourhood Support, was launched last week.

The city groups have been formed in recent years to help fight crime by self-help. They have aimed to raise awareness of the need to watch out for others and for neighbours to get to know each other and form a support network.

The need for Rural Support reflected the spread of crime and violence into rural communities. The scheme is aimed at being a catalyst to help people to come together and help themselves and each other.

As part of the scheme 40,000 kits have been printed which give background information and suggestions for setting up the groups. Production costs of \$100,000 were sponsored by Wrightson NMA to mark 125 years of service to the rural community.

The kits are to be available from local police stations.

The main booklet in the kit explains the reasons for Rural Support.

"The rural support groups are groups of people who want their area to be safe, and to have a sense of community.

"The groups are informal, friendly networks adapted to the needs of particular areas."

The groups work on the premise that crime is a community problem which is far more likely to be reduced by community action than by just toughening up on sentences.

"Neighbourhood support groups have been very successful in some areas and have led to dramatic drops in crime.

"Rural support groups can be just as successful and with the community spirit which already exists in rural areas may be easier to establish."

The booklet says there are two groups of people affected by crime.

"There are those who suffer directly, having been raped, assaulted, threatened, burgled or otherwise abused. They have a right to help and support. Local people can assist by offering moral as well as practical support.

"An even greater number of people are victims of fear. Many are very frightened in their homes, on their farms, when driving along isolated roads at night...

"Fear can dominate our lives... limit what we do. Rural support groups offer opportunities to discuss fears, to get help advice and comfort."

The rural support network can also be useful in civil defence emergencies, and with issues difficult to discuss such as stress on farming families, or family violence.

The kit offers practical suggestions on ways country people can help each other.

There is also useful information on a wide range of issues such as building security, civil defence, stress, family violence, child abuse, incest and sexual abuse, insurance and farming safety.



Hira Parata, married on Saturday to Huia Morgan of Wanganui, hid his face when our photographer caught him hitched to a post in Raetihi. His mother Nancy holding her grandson Riley, and Vai Marumaru seemed happy enough!

The bonds of matrimony!

Shoppers in Seddon St Raetihi, were amused to see a young man bound and padlocked to a pole in the main street on Friday afternoon.

Hira Parata Jnr, 23, was working in Raetihi when fellow workers, aided by mother Nancy Parata, bundled him up with binder twine and cord.

The reason for the prank was that Hira was to be married on Saturday and this was his "send-off."

Some onlookers might have thought that this was taking the act of wed-lock a little too far!

Hira lives in Wanganui, where he and his wife, Huia Morgan, will be living.



A big smile from Hira. He just knew they were going to let him go. Did they...?

Venue for PD centre found by new committee

The first meeting of the Waimarino Community Centre Committee held last Thursday has found a temporary home for court community sentences such as periodic detention.

St Mary's church hall in Raetihi will be the venue until more permanent premises can be found.

The community centre committee came together as the result of a successful meeting attended by residents and government department representatives held the week before.

The centre will be a base for job skills training, recreation and counselling, as well as for court community sentences.

It is an attempt by the Waimarino community to provide a positive programme for youth, and is to be multi-cultural and inter-denominational. It deserves the support of skier visitors as well as locals because all pay the price for the aimlessness of young people.

The committee is looking at two proposals for a permanent building. Both are likely to be expensive and a fund-raising programme is planned.

Periodic detention sentences as an alternative to

prison will begin as soon as the Justice Department approves the venue. A warden will be appointed to look after the centre.

The committee also elected Darcy Mills as chairman and Stella Mills as secretary.

Buses to be cut?

Rumours that Railways Road Services buses to the Waimarino may be cut have concerned business people.

However, Alan Coombs, marketing manager with Railways' passenger group said that only the early-morning Taumarunui to Taihape and return service may be withdrawn.

At present the Monday to Saturday bus leaves Taumarunui at 7.30am and travels through Ohwango - National Park - Ohakune - Raetihi - Taihape. A second bus travels the same route leaving Taihape at 8.45am.

Mr Coombs said that all long-distance services through the Waimarino would continue though

there might be minor timetable changes.

Ken George, owner of Kapai Books in Ohakune, said the loss of the early-morning service would hurt his business and others in the region.

"I get the NZ Herald off the bus and without it the papers would not come until the afternoon. It wouldn't be worth my while opening on Saturday any more without the papers," he said.

Mr George said that the buses were the main freight carriers into Ohakune and their loss would be serious for many businesses.

A hearing is to be held in the Taumarunui District Court on Thursday 7 August to determine the fate of the service.

Farming gloom at meeting

Farmers around the Waimarino area have been feeling the financial pinch in recent months and because of this an emergency meeting was held to discuss their concerns.

The meeting took place at the Waimarino Club last Monday night, with about 50 locals in attendance.

Guest for the evening was the provisional president of the Wanganui Federated Farmers, Donald Walkinton.

The mood of the meeting was described as resigned, and a feeling that more than a few had begun to lose interest in the farming industry.

One topic of discussion was the dominion conference of Federated Farmers held in Wellington the previous week when local branch representatives met government officials.

They came away from the conference disillusioned after receiving no backing from the Government.

The general consensus though, was that farmers would have the last laugh when this year's export figures were released.

The chairman of Waimarino Federated Farmers, David Griffiths, believes that if it hadn't been for crippling interest rate, more farmers would have managed to keep their heads above water.

He said that rising interest rates had been the final death blow for some farmers.

There was no miracle cure offered at the meeting, nor were problems resolved.

The matter was handed over to the head office of Federated Farmers in Wellington, which will continue searching for a solution.

Raetihi shakes

Last week's earthquake which shook parts of the Waimarino was centred near Raetihi.

The quake took place just before midnight on Monday 28 July and measured 5.5 on the Richter scale.

It was described as a moderate earthquake and was felt beyond the region in Wanganui and Wellington. No damage was reported.

Detroit prize to winning manager

A competition organised to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Ford Motor Company of New Zealand turned up trumps for Reynolds Ford of Raetihi and Ohakune.

They were overall winner in the competition and general manager Trevor Reynolds is off to Detroit in the USA with eight other dealers as reward.

The dealers were set quotas for sales of cars, light commercial vehicles and heavy trucks, and those who had the highest percentage

of sales above the quotas won.

Trevor leaves for the trip on 15 August and will be away until 26 August. He will visit several Ford establishments in Detroit including assembly plants, the Ford test track, as well as meeting Ford dealers.

The New Zealand group will visit the Toronto Motor Show where the 1987 Ford models will be on display.

There will also be time for other pursuits such as a visit to Niagara Falls, attendance at a baseball game and a tour of the largest stadium in the world at the University of Michigan.

NEWS
58-681

Your Community Newspaper

ADS
58-532

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

Chasing Winter at Tūroa



Australian chippie Dylan Wilkinson, working a winter at Tūroa. Photo: Sophie Overeem

By Clancy Miller

There are very few places in the world where clipping into your snowboard means carving the edges of an active volcano. Here on Mount Ruapehu, it happens every winter.

For generations, people have been living by the rhythms of Mt Ruapehu, the largest volcanic mountain in New Zealand. People from far and wide travel to experience the bizarre yet fulfilling notion of gliding down pristine white tracks where volcanic rock emerges from beneath.

Yet, for those who call this mountain home, it is far more than a holiday destination.

Tūroa, meaning “long-standing” in te reo Māori, conveys a sense of endurance that reflects the mountain itself. Its breathtaking terrain offers more than just a picturesque backdrop for skiing; it allows for a profound connection between culture and adventure.

The little town closest to the southwestern slopes, Ohakune, has its own spark of excitement as the temps begin to drop. The farming, gardening and forestry town, also known as the “carrot capital”, gains a new personality as the storms begin to roll through.

This season at Tūroa, it isn’t just the snow that has drawn the masses here; it is the ones behind the service desks, at the cafe counters or at the many lift stations who have made this experience feel even more special.

As a staff member myself, it has been a pleasure hearing

the stories of my colleagues, and the reasons why they exchanged their conventional lifestyles for the pursuit of chasing winters.

For Australian Dylan Wilkinson, his winter journey arose after finishing his apprenticeship as a “chippie”. It only took a few conversations with a mutual friend before it all “kind of just fell into place.”

Heather Wallace travelled all the way from Scotland to experience the New Zealand snow season. Based at Tūroa Headquarters, Wallace welcomes seasoned visitors, locals and holiday-makers. For Wallace, it was the mountain itself that made the best impression.

“I liked that the job was near a small town as I’m not a city girl. I enjoyed learning about the history of this mountain, and it helps me see how special this place really is.”

Taiwanese staff member, Ling Liao, embodies the epitome of chasing that winter lifestyle. Having previously done two seasons in Australia at Mount Buller, Liao has high hopes to do her next winter in Europe.

“Working ski seasons allow me to have a nice work-life balance; the winter life can be simple and joyful.”

Although November will roll over and the snow will eventually begin to melt, the memories and connections made here at Tūroa will be the reason why so many of us just keep coming back. For many of those who live for the thrill of chasing winters, one season is never enough.

Winter warmers: tramping hut fireplace etiquette

It’s cold. So how do you stay warm – and safe – in a DOC hut?

Media and Communications Advisor Krysia Nowak explores how to optimise your fireplace game.

Many DOC huts have fireplaces to keep you toasty warm at the end of the day (you can check the DOC website to find out which huts). At times, the thought of a warm place is the only thing that keeps you going in a long day tramping in freezing conditions.

But do you know how to get the best performance from a DOC fireplace, or how to keep yourself and others safe?

Use only as much wood as you need.

At some serviced and Great Walk huts, firewood is supplied as an amenity. But please remember this firewood is helicoptered in at great expense, and with all the associated carbon emissions, so burn responsibly and just what you need.

In other locations, you might need to gather dead wood from the forest. But it’s never appropriate to chop down trees on public conservation land.

Insects, fungi, and the soil need some dead wood around, so take a bit, leave a bit, and try not to completely thrash the area close to the hut. We’re just visiting, so it’s important we don’t disrupt the lives of the creatures that call the woods home.

Whether wood is supplied or you collect it yourself, it’s best not to go overboard, so there’s plenty of wood for the next people seeking warmth at the end of the day. Using only what you need helps reduce your impact, leaves more wood to keep later visitors toasty, and gives you a warm fuzzy feeling from being a good fellow human.

Stacking wood around the hearth or leaning against the burner box is asking for trouble. Stack it a little away from the fireplace so it doesn’t accidentally catch fire.

Keep the fire contained, and don’t leave it unattended

Hopefully this is a no-brainer, and we all know that fire is dangerous and needs to be treated with care. Treat it like a wayward child with a pair of scissors; it’s probably fine if it keeps doing what it’s supposed to be doing, but I wouldn’t risk leaving it alone.

Discovered a half-burnt log and some black charcoal in the fireplace? Don’t biff it, it’s perfectly good fuel! Burn fuel completely to make the best use of resources

– again, making sure there’s enough to go around.

Put only cold ashes in the ash bins. Handling hot ashes is dangerous, and even if you manage not to get burnt, hot ashes sitting in a bucket or disposed of outdoors have been known to damage huts as well. If you used the fireplace overnight, leave the ashes in the burner, since they might still be warm and be a fire hazard.

Once the ashes are cold, they can go in the ash bin – but don’t forget to save those half-burnt and charcoal bits, they’re still good for more warmth.

While it may seem like a good idea to burn your rubbish, it can cause health issues for you and others using the hut. An example UHT milk cartons, which have a thin layer of foil inside. When these burn, the light foil flies up the chimney and settles on the roof, where the hut water is collected from. In the past, we’ve had to urgently clean out entire water tanks due to foil contamination.

Pack in, pack out. Don’t put it in the toilet, don’t put it in the fireplace, don’t stuff it into a corner of the hut.

If the ash bin is full and you absolutely must dispose of ashes elsewhere, choose a patch of bare earth away from plants and wet it thoroughly so it doesn’t ignite.

Replace any wood you use. This is just being a decent person. It’s particularly important if people are using huts in emergency situations – leaving it prepared could



be what helps someone make it through a night in relative comfort.

Extinguish fires completely before you leave. Don’t leave the burny thing alone to burn things. An unattended fire could burn down a hut, leaving others stranded without shelter, or it could start a wildfire.

Plan to stop adding wood at least an hour before you leave to allow the fire to die naturally.

If you need to extinguish it faster, damping it with some ash can speed up the process; just make sure it’s fully out before you head out yourself.



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Property Brokers  Property Management