



Snow town dries up

Ohakune was still without water as at midday on Tuesday after the pipes ran dry on Sunday morning, but RDC and its contractor Veolia were still working to have water flowing by 5pm Tuesday.

The raw water pipe feeding the town's treatment plant on Soldier's Road, through the Tongariro National Park from the Serpentine Stream to the west of the Ohakune Mountain Road had burst on Thursday.

There was confusion on Monday, with earlier advice that water would be back on by 5pm, then reports on RNZ that work was delayed and it might take days. This was later corrected and the advice was that progress was going well and water would be back on by 5pm Monday. But then at 3pm, RDC advised that, while repairs and bleeding of the pipe was complete, they were having to re-charge the raw water pipe much more slowly, to reduce the chance of more damage.

Volunteers step up

Since the start of the crisis, numerous people have stepped up.

Cr Rabbit Nottage lists numerous people who have gone out of their way to help with the response.

He was advised on Saturday afternoon that the storage tanks were running low and that Tongariro Water in Waimarino/ National Park would have bottled water available.

"I called Lindsay Taylor (freight contractor) and got him out of bed. He said he'd be there in an hour."

A truck and trailer unit arrived in Ohakune and, with Alan Whale volunteering his all-terrain forklift, they dropped pallet loads of bottled water around town, finishing at around 10.30pm.

From 6am Sunday, they had more water available, with more volunteers helping out with distribution at the council offices in Ayr Street.

The volunteers – local residents, councillors and community board members – worked until about 9pm on Sunday to

help with more water distribution.

RDC thanked the "champions of Ohakune, working from dawn till dusk" – Rabbit, Alan Whale, Luigi Hotter, Lindsay Taylor, as well as many others, some for an hour or so, some all day. Several other people helped at the council offices, at the water tanker, and also delivering water around town to people in need.

Rabbit also wanted to acknowledge the workers who stepped up to help with the repair – Taura Metals for opening up their quarry on Friday to allow him to pick up metal to cart to the repair site; Ruapehu Worx who supplied workers and machinery to cart the metal into the repair site on the Te Ara Mangawhero trail where the repairs were being made.

Repairs complications

The initial leak had scoured out the Te Ara Mangawhero Track, but on Thursday it is understood that water was still flowing to the treatment plant.

Repairs had been carried out fairly quickly but the pipe failed completely while a sleeve was being put on the pipe to repair it.

But by the time the repair had been completed, the water levels had dropped dramatically at the storage tanks, thanks to a large number of visitors staying in town for skiing.

The contractor also had to find and bleed several valves on the raw water pipe, to remove air locks.

"Council had earlier been confident that water would be restored by 5pm (Monday). However, further technical analysis found that repressurising the raw water pipeline too quickly could damage it and cause even longer delays," RDC advised at 3pm on Monday.

"Taking the pipeline from no flow to full flow too quickly risks fracturing the line. A slower, controlled approach is therefore needed to protect the repaired infrastructure and safely restore the town's

Turn to Page 2



Alan Whale, volunteer on the Ohakune water crisis response, has been working round the clock delivering water.



The small hole that was the first sign that something was wrong. Photo: Trevor Taylor.



Cr Rabbit Nottage and local engineer Bruce Cranston helping out at the drinking water tanker.

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A sighting of a young kiwi at Ngā Roto-o-Rangataua (Lakes Reserve, near Ohakune) is being recognised as an exciting breakthrough – the first kiwi heard of at Rangatauanui.

"It's likely a dispersing juvenile so it might not hang around. There are kiwi in bush and scrub remnants in the wider farmland areas, so it's possibly dispersed from them. I've never heard an adult kiwi calling at the lake, so I don't think we've got a resident population there."

DOC principal ranger Serena Taylor said just last week an adult male kiwi was heard calling on Te Ara Man-



gawhero, just off the Mountain Road.

“Kiwi have very fragile bodies. They don’t have the strong breastbones other birds have, so even a gentle nudge from a curious dog can crush their ribs and internal organs. All dogs, no matter their breed, can act on instinct and chase or kill a kiwi.

Kiwi avoidance training is jointly co-ordi-

Ngāti Rangi also recognises this moment as a significant milestone in kiwi recovery.

“Sourcing kiwi for translocation and release into Karioi Rāhui has been a long-held aspiration of Ngāti Rangi in re-establishing both presence and responsibilities in the area.

“In addition to the translocation project, we have been training Ngāti Rangi members to become certified kiwi handlers. This has been an

“These birds are important to us all, and we must take a concerted approach to keeping them well and thriving. At a minimum, some signs notifying of kiwi presence and the need to train dogs for kiwi avoidance are key things we can do to secure a future in which these kiwi are protected, healthy and present across our rohe.

Find Kiwi Avoidance Training opportunities
at KiwiAvoidanceTraining.nz

Spotting a shy duck in river rapids has become much easier, thanks to a trial project using thermal drones to find threatened whio (blue duck) in the Tongariro area.

DOC principal ranger Dan Van Der Lubbe says Tongariro staff were impressed by the resolution of the drone cameras.

Who live on and near fast-flowing rivers. Typical monitoring is resource intensive, with rangers navigating rivers on foot or by raft.

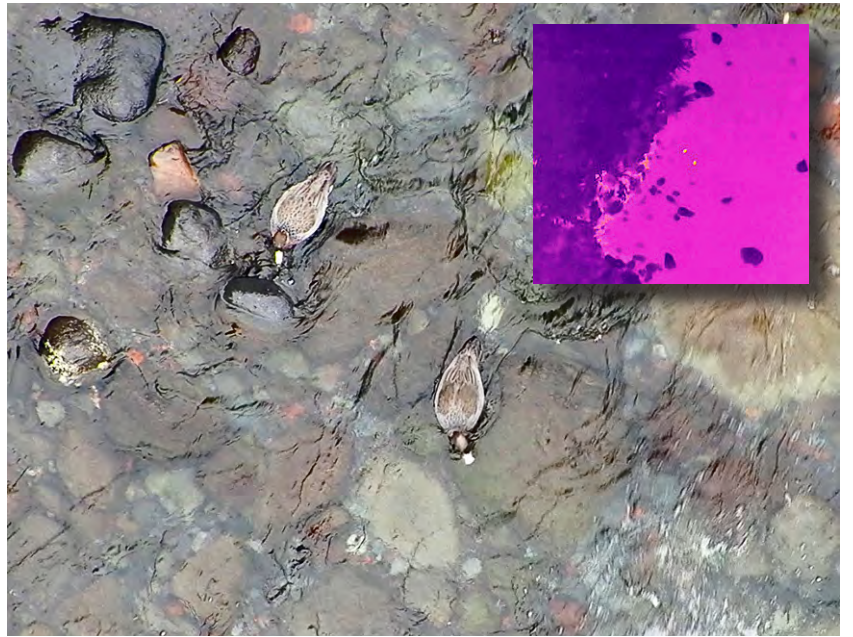
"We can only have rangers in so many places," says Dan.

"So this thermal technology gives us an opportunity to learn about who across more rivers.

“In our trial run we detected 10 pairs of whio, and six single birds across 8km of the Whakapapa-iti River. We’ve never been able to survey there before, so this is a game changer.”

Operators use thermal cameras to locate the heat signature of birds on the river, then a standard camera to identify the species.

Dan says the technology means operators can zoom in



Two who spotted from above during a trial drone survey. Inset: who are detected using the drone's thermal imaging.

on individual birds, almost distinguishing identifying features of each duck.

"And the best part is the who just behave like normal. They don't know the drone is even there, they just carry on feeding with no disturbance at all."

Whio are found only in Aotearoa New Zealand, but their survival is threatened by habitat loss and introduced predators, particularly stoats.

The Whakapapa-iti runs alongside the Tongariro “whio security site”, where the whio population is protected and monitored with support from Genesis.

"This is really going to help us understand more about how who are faring in more than just our intensive management areas. It'll help us focus conservation where it will be most effective," says Dan.

From Page 1

water supply.”

RDC said council's water services contractor, Veolia, has confirmed that the airlock affecting the raw water pipeline has been resolved.

“Additional water tankers have also been brought in to help speed up the process as much as safely possible.

“Council recognises how difficult and disruptive the ongoing outage is for residents and businesses.

"This has been an extremely technical and challenging situation. We have been working to keep the community fully informed as new information becomes available, but the situation and expected restoration time have continued to evolve as work has progressed.

“We thank everyone for their patience, understanding, and cooperation while we work to restore the water supply safely and avoid any further delays.

“Water is now expected to be restored by approximately 5pm, Tuesday 11 August. Council will continue to provide updates as work progresses.”

Communications

There has been a lot of criticism of the

2 • **RUAPEHU BULLETIN** 12 August 2026

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 great range of cabinet food and beverages, Frappé and smoothies.
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 available. Speedy free Wi-Fi! A perfect place for everybody!

Ruapehu joins four councils to ‘shape the region’s future’

Ruapehu has joined four other councils from across the Manawātū-Whanganui region, to commit to move forward together on a locally led regional work programme in response to the Government’s Simplifying Local Government reforms.

The participating councils – Rangitikei, Tararua, Manawātū, Ruapehu and Whanganui district councils have signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing a collaborative programme of work.

The programme will build a “shared evidence base”, test regional and sub-regional options and aims to “better understand the opportunities and challenges facing local government across the region before any council determines its future direction”.

The participating councils have agreed to progress the work while leaving the opportunity open for other councils to join in the future.

Ruapehu mayor Weston Kirton said the programme recognised that every council brought different perspectives to the table.

“Every district has its own circumstances, relationships and aspirations. This process gives us the opportunity to understand where our interests align, where they differ, and to work respectfully through those issues before any council considers its next steps.”

Rangitikei mayor Andy Watson said the participating councils were demonstrating responsible leadership.

“This is simply responsible local government. Before anyone reaches conclusions about what reform might look like, we owe it to our communities and to the region to

properly understand the issues, test the options and make decisions based on evidence. If we’re going to have this conversation, let’s make sure we’re having it well.”

Tararua mayor Scott Gilmore said working together would ensure every participating council was better informed.

“The challenges facing local government won’t disappear on their own. Every district has its own identity and priorities, but many of the pressures we face are shared. Working together gives us a better understanding of the opportunities while ensuring local communities remain at the heart of future decisions.”

Manawātū mayor Michael Ford said councils across the region are at different stages in considering what the future of local government could look like, and some have progressed their thinking on alternative models further than others.

“Manawātū District Council has done a significant amount of work in this space. We’ve identified models we believe have real potential to strengthen regional collaboration while retaining local representation, decision-making and accountability but we haven’t closed the door on other options. We remain open-minded about what the best model might ultimately be.

“What’s important now is that we keep the momentum going. There is an opportunity for councils to take a lead, continue the discussions and properly test the different options available to us. We shouldn’t wait for change to be designed for us if we can work together to help shape what good reform could look like for our region.”



Five of this Region’s mayors have signed a memorandum of understanding on the local government reforms. From left, Ruapehu mayor Weston Kirton, Tararua mayor Scott Gilmore, Whanganui mayor Andrew Tripe, Rangitikei mayor Andy Watson and Manawātū mayor Michael Ford. Photo supplied.

Whanganui mayor Andrew Tripe said the participating councils had chosen to lead and be proactive rather than wait.

“Communities expect leadership. Rather than waiting to see where reform may lead, we’re choosing to work constructively, collaboratively and proactively with our regional neighbours to continue to build the evidence and understand what delivers the best long-term outcomes for the people we serve. That’s simply good governance.”

The Memorandum of Understanding makes clear that participation does not commit any council to a preferred governance model or future structure. Instead, it provides a disciplined framework to test options, understand the benefits and trade-offs, and ensure any future decisions are informed by evidence and local priorities.

The Memorandum also expressly provides for other councils to join the MOU at any stage should they choose to do so.

Horizons Regional Council has provided a letter of support for the Memorandum.

The participating mayors said that, while not all councils in the Region have signed the MOU, regional collaboration through the Mayoral Forum will continue on matters outside of the Government’s Simplifying Local Government reforms. They also remain open to councils who are not currently signatories, signing at any time. They also noted that every council had its own priorities, communities and decision-making processes.

“Our responsibility is to the communities we represent. That means getting on with the work, building a shared understanding of the opportunities and challenges before us, and ensuring the future of our region is shaped by informed local leadership.”

“Our focus is on achieving the best long-term outcomes for the people of the Manawātū-Whanganui region — not just within individual council boundaries, but

across the communities that make up our region.”

Councils commended

Horizons chair Nikki Riley says she commends all councils within the region for the efforts made to inform what will be intergenerational decisions regarding local government.

“Given Horizons’ ineligibility to put forward a proposal – central government’s criteria did not allow regional councils to submit amalgamation proposals – we have acted in a supporting and enabling role to the region’s Mayoral Forum and each of the member councils.

“This includes providing data and information about the regional functions we govern and undertake on behalf of all our region’s communities. We know this information has been valuable to our region’s city and district councils throughout the local government reform process, especially given the challenging three-month timeframe to decide on a Head Start pathway.

“With the 9 August deadline, Horizons has sent letters of support to all our councils and noted our continued willingness and desire to support each council’s ongoing decision-making.”

Horizons respects all councils and will continue to be an enabling partner in the next phase of local government reform, says Cr Riley.

“Horizons will keep supporting councils in our region in an equal and even-handed manner. This support will continue all the way through transition into the future institutional arrangements for local government and regional service delivery for the people of the Horizons Region.”

This will include work through the Mayoral Forum, which has committed to continue working together as the local government reform process continues, says Cr Riley.

Art raffle for Ōwhango whio



Helen Roberts, winner of the Ōwhango Alive painting of a whio. Photo supplied.

The Ōwhango Alive fundraising raffle has been won by Helen and Steve Roberts, who are looking forward to placing the piece in pride of place at their home.

The “Whio Whanau” painting was exhibited at the Ruapehu Art Awards last October by Piriaka artist Kathleen Lennie, who then offered Ōwhango Alive a print, for use as a fundraising raffle.

“The raffle was a raging success, with the 100 tickets

selling out within five days,” said Ōwhango Alive member Sally Lashmar.

She thanked Kathleen, Helen and Steve (winners) and Kim Petersen, who organised and ran the raffle, and Aaron Owen, who drew the raffle at the Blue Hill Cafe social evening.

“And thanks also to all of you who bought tickets but didn’t win – your support means a lot.”

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

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

Ohakune: 10am - 4pm
54 Clyde Street.
OHK: 06 3858427

Taumarunui: 10am - 4pm
Railway Station, 116 Hakiaha Street.
TAU: 07 895 7494



College squash teams with Co-ed cup for first time

Two seconds and a 7th place for Ruapehu College's squash teams earned the school the Co-Ed Cup at the 2026 New Zealand Secondary School Squash Championships last week.

"Our Girls A team went down in a close 3/2 loss in the final to claim 2nd place overall, our Boys team went down 3/2 in another super close round to claim second place in division 2 and our Girls B team came away with a 4/1 win to claim 7th overall," said coach Matthew Laurenson.

"We also claimed the CoEd cup for the first time ever, this is for the best performing CoEd school and to top it all off we had two players named in the New Zealand Trans Tasman team who will take on Australia later in the year, Hana Harding was named as number 2 and Jessie Harding as a non-travelling reserve both in the junior girls division, Casey Shields also narrowly missed out on selection for this.

"A massive congratulations to all that were involved with this event. We had a huge support crew travel with us to Christchurch but an even bigger crew back home who made this trip possible. A huge thank you to everyone that watched via the livestreaming and for all of the awesome messages of support they meant a lot to all involved and helped our players continue pushing when

things got tough."

Laurenson thanked Simon Barlow for his fundraising efforts throughout the year.

"He was able to help the students overcome the financial barrier of this trip."

The Laurenson Trust also provided financial support.

He thanked the managers, coaches and supporters; Ruapehu College for allowing "a good portion of the school" away and for "always supporting our students on this trip"; to all supporters who tuned in on the livestream or sent through messages of support.

He also thanked the Rowe family who have been involved with this trip for many years and are always supportive.

He also mentioned the Ohakune Squash Club for use of their courts for "many, many hours" to train and for the support with fundraiser tournaments.

"And finally, to the players – what a year it has been.

"You should be proud of your endless commitment to training and the work that you have put in this year, you have made huge progress this year and should be proud.

"You have made history this year as being the first Ruapehu College team to win the Co-Ed Cup and you won it convincingly."



Ruapehu College's squash cup winning teams.

Letters

Safer roads in Ohakune

• I was recently notified that NZTA Waka Kotahi is seeking feedback on the speed limit on State Highway 49, at the Waiouru entrance to Ohakune.

NZTA proposes extending the 50km/h zone by 110 metres beyond Teitei Drive towards Waiouru.

Although this is a positive step, it does not go far enough to protect pedestrians—particularly children—between the Mangateitei River bridge and Tainui Street.

This section of SH49 lies within Ohakune's residential area. The 70 km/h zone should be removed entirely, bringing this entrance into line with the town's other entry points.

NZTA is inviting feedback on the proposal. The more responses it receives, the clearer its understanding of the views of residents and visitors will be.

Let's make this area safer for everyone.

Complete the feedback form on the NZTA website and make your views heard. If we do

not speak up now, it may be a long time before the speed limit is changed to improve safety for everyone.

www.nzta.govt.nz/projects-and-consultations/have-your-say/current-consultations

The close off date for responses is 5pm 19 August 2026

Richard Milne

Snow hitch

• Attended a Rural Support event in Raetihi (I'm Good ... Are You?), which excellently presented the experiences of Willie Apiata VC, but he summarised 'family' as the key to looking after oneself.

As a lone soul in Ruapehu, with skiing my main focus, few folk understand how a non-driving octogenarian, with his rich offspring all Down South, gets around with a lack of public transport. So many of the messages he sends hoping to find a lift to Tūroa go unanswered, and for seven seasons now, he's asked Tūroa's admin for a place to leave his skis at the mountain so hitchhiking might be made easier. (To no avail, it seems). What can I do?

Text JR at 0223596800 if you can help?

John Riding, Raetihi.

What mandate?

• As an avid reader of agendas, I have absolutely no idea under what mandate the Ruapehu District Council mayor signed last week's Memorandum of Understanding – Regional Collaboration on a Locally Led Response to the Government's Simplifying Local Government Process (MOU) with Manawātū, Rangitikei, Whanganui and Taranua?

Apparently the purpose of this MOU is to provide a simple, agreed framework for the councils of the Manawātū-Whanganui region to work together on a proactive, locally-led response to the Government's Simplifying Local Government process.

What about Te Kāhui Maunga (my personal favourite)? What about our kōrero with Taupō and others in the north?

If it is indeed the role of elected members to question and scrutinise staff reports and recommendations, how can such an important MOU be signed if councillors haven't even seen it?

At last week's RDC meeting, members were encouraged to support the "Horizons" letter written on or about 17 July by Whanganui District Council

CEO Doug Tate.

In their deliberations, for some weird reason, Manawātū, Rangitikei, Whanganui and Taranua councillors considered a different version of this "Horizons" letter.

Their version contained one extra sentence.

It stated there is the existence of a five-council MOU which would provide for "a Regional Working Party of mayors and appointed representatives, a Chief Executive Steering Group, a Technical Working Group, and an independent facilitator to support disciplined progress, constructive challenge and clear decision points".

Manawātū District councillors started the ball rolling, considering both the unedited "Horizons" letter and a copy of the full seven-page MOU on 22 July.

Given that Ruapehu District Council considered the matter eight days later, voting in favour of reviewing any substantial amendments under urgency by email, I struggle to understand why our elected members were not afforded the same opportunity and, worse, how can a critical sentence and the seven-pager simply go poof?

Turn to Page 9

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

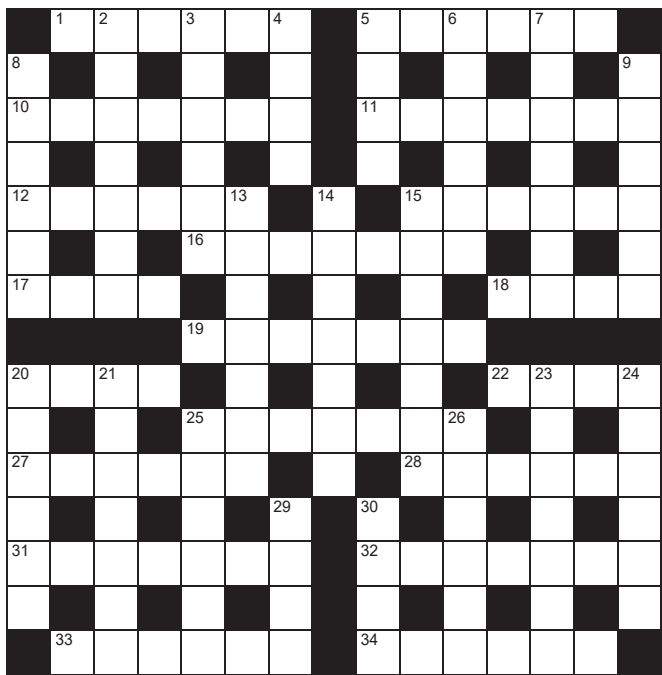
QUICK CROSSWORD

Across

- 1. Leapt (6)
- 5. More than necessary (6)
- 10. Outdo (7)
- 11. Bloodshed (7)
- 12. Mass migration (6)
- 15. Illustrate (6)
- 16. Redwood tree (7)
- 17. Of sound mind (4)
- 18. Underground chamber (4)
- 19. 100 years (7)
- 20. Fellow (4)
- 22. Probability (4)
- 25. Set of straps (7)
- 27. Antenna (6)
- 28. Heave (6)
- 31. Arbitrate (7)
- 32. Layman (7)
- 33. Sell (6)
- 34. Shortage (6)

Down

- 2. Steal (7)
- 3. Counting device (6)
- 4. Deep cut (4)
- 5. Engrave (4)
- 6. Part of the eye (6)
- 7. Endurance (7)
- 8. Possessions of value (6)
- 9. Kitchen appliance (6)
- 13. More than two or three (7)



- 14. String of flags (7)
- 15. Stray off the subject (7)
- 20. Moist and sticky (6)
- 21. Shorten (7)
- 23. Region's language (7)
- 24. Various (6)
- 25. Danger (6)
- 26. Layers (6)
- 29. Relinquish (4)
- 30. Terrain (4)



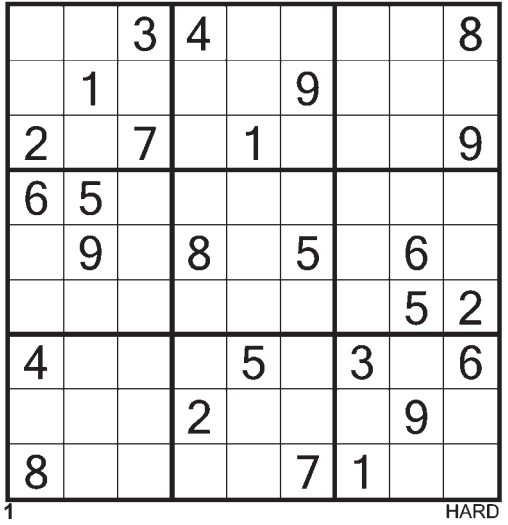
Enjoy WordFit puzzles? Magazines available from www.thepuzzlecompany.co.nz

THE TOP 10

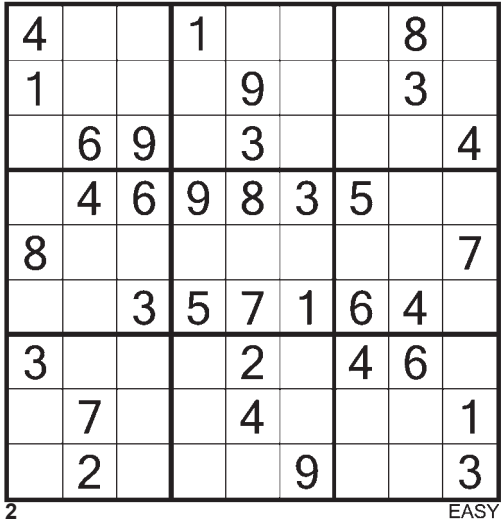
- 1 1876, 2 Photosynthesis, 3 Sir Francis Drake, 4 Hamilton, 5 Argentina, 6 Brazil, 7 Antarctica, 8 Falklands, 9 Oklahama, 10 Sir Bernard Freyberg.

SUDOKU

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



HARD 2



EASY

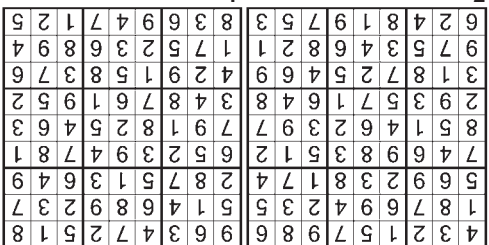
The Top 10

- 1. Was New Zealand first linked by cable with Australia in 1876, 1904 or 1922?
- 2. What is the process by which plants make food using light?
- 3. Which famous explorer sailed on the Golden Hind?
- 4. What is New Zealand's largest inland city?
- 5. Name the three South American countries that have won the FIFA World Cup.
- 6. What was the name of Dorothy's four-legged companion on the Yellow Brick Road?
- 7. Where is Queen Maud island?
- 8. The British destroyer HMS Sheffield was sunk during which war?
- 9. Tulsa is in which US state?
- 10. Who was commander of the NZ Division throughout World War II?

CROSSWORD

- 25. Hazard, 26. Strata, 29. Cede, 30. Land.
- Clammy, 21. Abridge, 23. Dialect, 24. Sundry, 13. Several, 14. Bunting, 15. Digress, 20. 6. Cornea, 7. Stamlina, 8. Assets, 9. Kettle, Down: 2. Purlin, 3. Abacus, 4. Gash, 5. Etch, 34. Dearth.
- Strain, 31. Mediate, 32. Amateur, 33. Peddle, Chap, 22. Odds, 25. Harness, 27. Aerial, 28. Sequoia, 17. Sane, 18. Cave, 19. Century, 20. 11. Carnegie, 12. Exodus, 15. Depict, 16. Across: 1. Sprang, 5. Excess, 10. Surpass,

SUDOKU



Tangiwai memorial construction start marked

After many years of hui and working together, the Tangiwai Memorial committee, the Ruapehu Lions and Ngāti Rangi came together for a significant milestone in the development of the planned Tangiwai Memorial Centre on Friday.

A turning of the sod ceremony was held to commemorate Stage One of the construction process for the new shelter.

Bob Norling, Tangiwai Committee chair, passionate advocate and historian, put the first shovel in the land alongside Ngāti Rangi pou arahi Helen Leahy.

A surprise visitor to the site was Hon Dr Shane Reti and his partner Yvonne.



Ohakune resident Bruce Thompson talks about his memories of the 1953 disaster. Thompson was a young man who helped with the rescue of survivors after the train crash.



Bob Norling, left, and Helen Leahy after the turning of the sod ceremony at the Tangiwai Rail Disaster memorial site on Friday. Photos: Glyn Hubbard.

Dr Reti is a Cabinet Minister; Minister for Pacific Peoples, Minister of Science, Innovation, and Technology, Minister of Universities and Minister of Statistics.

But on Friday they were at Tangiwai as New Zealanders paying their respects to the 152 people who lost their lives as a result of the fatal lahar that erupted on that fateful Christmas Eve night in 1953.

The ceremony followed an earlier meeting at the Ohakune Council Chambers, where members of Ngāti Rangi hosted and cultural induction hui prior to the start of construction of the Tangiwai Memorial Shelter at the Whangaehu River Site.



Bob Norling explains the project to improve the memorial for the victims of the 1953 Tangiwai Railway Disaster, when a lahar took out the rail bridge, sending the train into the Whangaehu River.

Were you an extra on Smash Palace?

Raetihi's Royal Theatre Trust is calling on locals who were extras on the movie Smash Palace, that was filmed around the southern Ruapehu area.

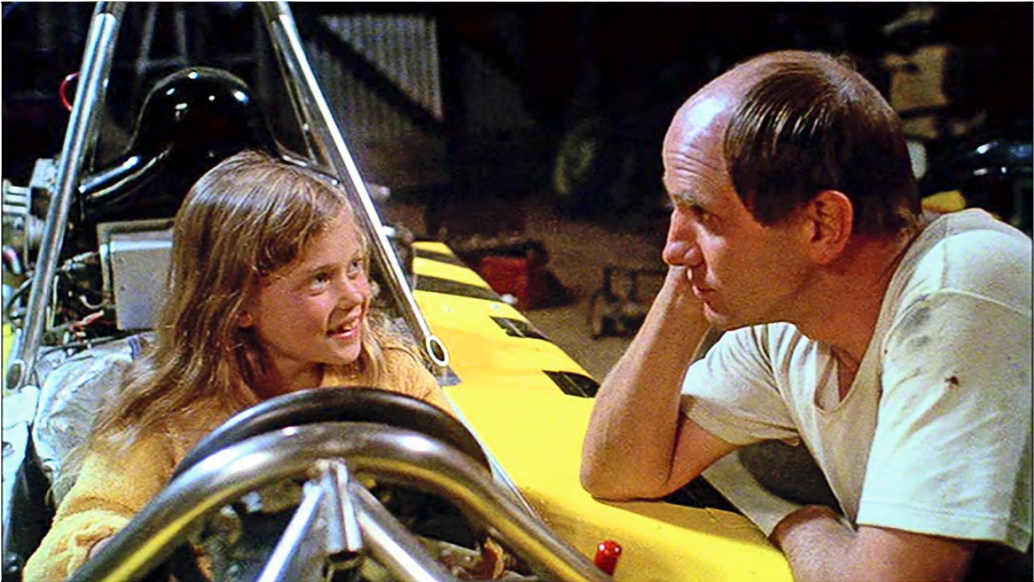
"Come to the screening on Saturday night 15 August to endorse the faith that you had at the time of shooting that it was something worth doing and that it was a good thing for this area." Says Trustee Noeline Churton.

She said the Theatre in Raetihi also needs the

support of the local people to be able to continue to function as a community asset and be able to screen films and as a place to be used for lots of different entertainment and meetings.

"I would like to invite the younger generation to come and see, relations, friends and the general public featuring in this film."

"I'm looking forward to seeing how many I can recognise in the film and in the audience," she added.



Scenes from Smash Palace – an iconic New Zealand movie from 1981 – that features a lot of Ruapehu locals.

BAYLEYS



Ohakune 8A Martin Place

Build your way in Ohakune

Set in a private and quiet cul-de-sac close to Ohakune township and the Junction, 8A Martin Place presents an opportunity to secure a freehold section in an established location. With no building covenants, purchasers have greater flexibility when planning their build, whether that's a permanent home, holiday retreat, or investment project. Well-positioned and ready for your ideas, this section offers the chance to create something that suits your vision while enjoying all that the Ruapehu region has to offer. A blank canvas in a peaceful, private location that's easy to enjoy year-round.

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596sqm

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Precautionary Boil Water Notice

The outage at the Ohakune Water Treatment Plant may have affected the safety of the drinking water supply.

All water supplied by the Ohakune Water Scheme must be boiled before it is used for:

Drinking

Food preparation

Brushing teeth

Making ice

Preparing infant formula

Diluting juices or beverages

Any other use where water may be swallowed

To make water safe for use, bring water to a rolling boil for at least two minutes, then allow it to cool before drinking or using it for food preparation.

Please take extra care for: Infants and young children Elderly people People with compromised immune systems

Please share this information with family members, neighbours, schools, businesses, visitors, and anyone else who may be affected.

What Actions Are Being Taken?

Ruapehu District Council is working to restore and verify the safety of the drinking water supply. The boil water notice will remain in place until approved testing and treatment checks confirm that the water is safe to drink without boiling.

As part of the recovery process, residents may see Veolia and Council staff:

Flushing fire hydrants

Operating valves within the network

Entering properties to turn on external taps

Conducting water quality and operational checks

These activities are an essential part of the programme to flush and disinfect water mains and restore safe drinking water throughout the network.

Emergency Water Supplies

Emergency drinking water remains available from:

Ruapehu District Council Office

37 Ayr Street, Ohakune

If you have previously collected water bottles, please return them to this location for refilling and reuse.

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Ohakune wins Park of the Year and emerging young talent prizes

Ohakune TOP 10 Holiday Park has returned from the Holiday Parks New Zealand (HPNZ) Conference in Hamilton with plenty to celebrate, after being named the 2026 Park of the Year – Small Park and seeing one of its youngest team members recognised as an emerging leader in the holiday park industry.

The Park was a finalist in two categories at the Holiday Parks New Zealand Awards 2026 – the Development Award and the Park of the Year Award for Small Parks (up to 80 sites) – before taking home the Park of the Year title at the awards evening.

Owner Kordula Daniel said the national recognition was a proud moment for the whole Ohakune TOP 10 team.

“We are absolutely thrilled to have won Park of the Year. There are some fantastic holiday parks throughout New Zealand, so to receive this recognition is something we are incredibly proud of,” Daniel said.

“It really is a team achievement. We are a small park with a dedicated team who put a huge amount of effort into looking after our guests and continually improving what we offer. To bring this award home to Ohakune is very special.”

Adding to the celebrations was the success of 22-year-old receptionist Fuschia Aiomanu, who was one of just three people from across New Zealand selected to receive a 2026 Newbook Emerging Leader Scholarship.

The scholarship provided Aiomanu with an all-ex-

penses-paid opportunity to attend the HPNZ Conference, including an all-access pass to the conference programme and official networking and social events. It also included exclusive mentoring opportunities with industry leaders and members of the Newbook team.

For Aiomanu, who is at the beginning of her career in the holiday park industry, the conference provided an opportunity to learn, make industry connections and gain experience alongside holiday park operators and tourism professionals from around the country.

“I’m incredibly proud of Fuschia,” Daniel said.

“At just 22, this was a wonderful opportunity for her to meet people from across the industry, learn from experienced operators and start building those connections.

“She has a great attitude and a real willingness to learn, and I believe she has a very bright future in the industry. Seeing one of our young team members recognised nationally made the conference even more special for us.”

Daniel said the two achievements were particularly rewarding because they recognised both what the Ohakune TOP 10 team is achieving today and the importance of developing the next generation of people entering the tourism and holiday park industry.

“To come home with the Park of the Year Award and also see Fuschia receive an opportunity like this was a fantastic result for our little park and for Ohakune.”



Ohakune TOP 10 Holiday Park receptionist Fuschia Aiomanu, left, and owner Kordula Daniel with the park’s finalist certificates for the 2026 Park of the Year and Development Awards.

Ngāti Rangi hosts star symposium at Marae

By Nicolas Schneyer

Snow fell over Maungarongo Marae on Monday 4 August as Ngāti Rangi welcomed students from kura across Whanganui, Rangitikei and Taranaki for a symposium dedicated to the astronomical traditions that shape the year for these iwi.

Unlike much of the country, where Matariki marks the turn of the Māori new year, these three regions look instead to the rising of Puanga. The symposium brought that distinction to life for a new generation, with the explicit aim of passing matauranga on to rangatahi.

Three workshops ran across the marae. Ngā Mata o Hina introduced students to the maramataka, the lunar calendar that has long guided daily life. Ngā Whetū covered knowledge of the sun and stars

themselves. Mara Kai looked at traditional Māori agricultural methods, showing how planting and harvesting were once timed by reading the sky.

Together, the sessions taught more than how to identify celestial phenomena. Students learned how that knowledge translates into practical guidance, from orientation on the land to the rhythm of the growing season, and how it gives meaning to five ceremonies that punctuate the year.

Te Tahī o te Tau, the predawn Hautapu Ngāti Rangi held on 9 July marks new beginnings and honours the dead as they become guiding stars. Te Matamata o te Tau follows in spring, when fires are lit to send aspirations to tūpuna and welcome new growth. Te Matiti o te Tau celebrates the summer harvest and Rehua’s bond

with the sun. Te Huatahi o te Tau, in autumn, centres on the kūmara harvest and the storing of food for winter. Finally, Te Maru o te Tau is held at sunset in May, when the departed are sent west and the community releases the year’s hardships before the long nights of winter set in.

The workshops drew on Ministry of Education resources alongside six years of research undertaken by NAIA Ltd, developed in collaboration with Te Whare Tūranga Kōrero o Puanganui-o-te-rangi, the collective representing the iwi of Taranaki, Whanganui and Rangitikei, with support from the Matariki Ahunganui Fund. Speaking to students, Che

Wilson summed up the kaupapa simply: “we acknowledge matariki, but we celebrate puanga as regard to our mate,” referring to Ngāti Rangi’s ancestors.

This year NAIA has produced two new booklets for the occasion. One focuses on Te Maru o te Tau and its Hautuku rites, the other on Te Tahī o te Tau and the Hautapu ceremony, each offering an in-depth explanation of the ritual, its meaning and the karakia that accompany it. Copies were handed out to every student to take home, extending the wānanga well beyond the marae gates.



A frosty morning for the daytime sessions of the Puanga Symposium.

Ohakune Squash

Thirty-plus members travelled to Christchurch last week to play and support the Ruapehu College teams in the national secondary school champs. They are now back and raring to go (see separate article) in the Ohakune Squash Club interbusiness is back on this Thursday.

Draw for this Thursday: 5:30pm – Pool three games – Ibex vs Lion, Jaguar vs Narwhai, Moose vs Octopus, bye Kiwi. 6:45pm – pool one games – Potty Mouths vs Baboons, Wattlings vs Deer, Crab vs Rabbit, bye Eagle. 8:00pm – pool two games – Fatz Oysters vs Orange Choc Chip, Peacock vs Horse, Goat vs Alpaca, bye Frog.

Round the mountain team doubles has started on Tuesday nights with Taumarunui, Turangi, Raetihi and Ohakune participating.

August Leagues are up. Entries need to be in by Sunday for next weekend’s Catalyst Performance Agronomy B grade tournament.

The Whanganui Regional Health Network, Ruapehu Health and Ngā Waihua o Paerangi are working together to bring the Hauora Bus to Ohakune

Wednesday 19th August

parked in the New World car park from 10:30am – 3:00pm

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Whanganui Regional Health Network

Kapa haka, ball time and exchange at Ruapehu College

Eye on Ruapehu College, contributed by staff and students

NZSS Cross Country

Ruapehu College has congratulated Sam Williams and Puti Wikohika, who represented Ruapehu College at the New Zealand Secondary Schools Cross Country Championships during Term 2.

"Sam and Puti both put in strong runs and represented Ruapehu College well," said principal Kris Vine.

Inter-Whānau Kapa Haka

Ruapehu students took to the stage for the annual Inter-Whānau Kapa Haka competition.

"Every whānau put in an incredible performance and it was fantastic to see the pride, commitment,

and energy that had gone into weeks of preparation," said Vine.

"The competition was a wonderful way to begin Puanga celebrations and acknowledge the values at the heart of Matariki, remembering those who have performed before us, celebrating the achievements of our students today, and looking ahead with excitement to the future of kapa haka at Ruapehu College."

The celebrations continued with a whole-school and community hāngī, bringing students, staff, whānau, and community members together.

"A huge thank you to everyone who donated meat, vegetables, and other ingredients, and to the many volunteers who gave their time to prepare,

cook, and serve the hāngī."

Kiwi House took first place; Tui second, with Huia House and Weka House sharing third.

Senior Ball

The start of term two saw senior students celebrate their Senior Ball, themed 'Western Elegance'.

Year 13 students spent much of the Friday transforming the school hall into a stunning venue for the occasion. Students embraced the theme with their cowboy hats, boots and stunning dresses.

"The success of the evening was thanks to the time, effort and support of many people," said Vine.

He made special thanks to Nicole Jaquiere, whose commitment and countless hours of planning helped create a night that students will remember.

"We are also incredibly grateful to our chefs for preparing a wonderful meal and to the staff and volunteers who gave up their evening to help supervise and ensure everything ran smoothly."

This year's ball award recipients are: King and Queen, Jay Learmonth and Jordi Demchy; Prince and Princess were David Hagley and Rebekah Swift; Duke and Duchess were Ezekiel Paynter and Violet Soverel.

Sports Exchange

Ruapehu College hosted Bradford Grammar School from the United Kingdom for a sports exchange on 28 July, with Mount Ruapehu providing a stunning backdrop.

Turn to Page 12



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Palmer continues his winning-way at BP Rally Taumarunui

Quentin Palmer and co-driver Noel Moloney (Skoda Fabia Rally2 evo) have continued their consistent winning form across the 2026 Hawkeswood Mining North Island Rally Series (NIRS) season, taking victory in the BP Rally Taumarunui on Saturday. The pairing won all eight Special Stages held on gravel roads around the King Country region to build a comfortable margin of over 4 minutes.

Second overall was a welcome back to Zeal Jones and novice co-driver Finn Fenning (Subaru Impreza WRX) with Zeal returning to NZ rallying after eight months in Japan and Finland.

Third overall and second NIRS competitors home were Vanuatu's Julien Lenglet/Fleur Pedersen (Subaru Impreza WRX) who were also awarded the Winmax Drive of the Day trophy ahead of Carlin Leong/Nathan Roa (Subaru Impreza WRX) in fourth overall (and third NIRS) after a thrilling three-way shootout over the final two stages including Jackson Clendon/Katrina Renshaw (Ford Fiesta Rally4) only two seconds behind in fifth placing overall.

"It went like clockwork," commented Palmer. "It's been a good day and a privilege to win on the return of this event to the NIRS calendar."

"The first couple of stages were a challenge with slippery conditions but after that the grip improved over the day."

Based in Taumarunui and promoted by South Taranaki, Taihape District and Dannevirke Car Clubs, the one-day National event consisted of eight Special Stages run over 135km's of classic King Country public gravel roads last used in 1999 as a NZ Rally Championship round. A smaller four stage 64km Clubmans rally was also run over the afternoon loops of stages.

The fourth round of the NIRS proved to shake up a num-



Quentin Palmer and co-driver Noel Moloney (Skoda Fabia Rally2 Evo) have continued their consistent winning form. Photo: Phillip Hagan.

ber of the different Class previous leaders. format combined with a title fights, particularly with "The simple and efficient central service park in the those trying to topple the four stages-repeated style Taumarunui township was

well received by the 46 strong competitors and the hundreds of spectators" commented NIRS coordinator Marty Roestenburg.

"The rally organising committee did a fabulous job and the marketing and promotion team really lifted the bar for regional rallies in Te ika a Maui. We are grateful for the support from Ruapehu District Council, Ngati Haua Iwi, local business, community groups, residents and the Taumarunui Cosmopolitan Club which was incredible. After a 26-year hiatus, we hope rallying will return to the mighty King Country again in the not too distant future."

PUBLIC NOTICES

Ruapehu District Council Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ruapehu Boards and Committees UPCOMING MEETING DATES



Agendas are published on our Public Portal two working days before each scheduled meeting.
To speak at our Public Forum and share your thoughts directly with Elected Members, please contact our Governance team at governance@ruapehudc.govt.nz.
All meetings are livestreamed and can be found on the Ruapehu District Council website under the Agendas & Livestream icon on the main page.

Taumarunui-Ōhura Community Board 5PM, 5PM, Thursday 20 August 2026
Ōhura & Districts Memorial Hall, 15 Ngarimu Street, Ōhura 3926

Ruapehu District Council
10AM, Wednesday 26 August 2026 Council Chambers, Ayr Street, Ohakune

Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board
6PM, Thursday 27 August 2026 Council Chambers, Ayr Street, Ohakune

MEETING CONTACTS	
Ruapehu District Council	07 895 8188
Taumarunui-Ōhura Community Board	
Molly Jeffries, Chairperson	021 431 833
Ōwhango-National Park Community Board	
Peter Zimmer, Chairperson	027 479 1926
Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board	
John (Luigi) Hotter, Chairperson	027 274 2616
Risk & Assurance Committee	
Philip Jones, Chairperson	027 499 9408

Letters

From Page 4

Surely elected members cannot be expected to make informed decisions on our behalf, or hold staff and the Mayor to account, if they are not provided with the same information their counterparts are publicly receiving in neighbouring districts.

Liz Brooker

Burst bubble

• Yes John, (Letters, *Ruapehu Bulletin*, 5 August) my bubble was burst a long time ago when I discovered life was not about me my thoughts, desires or anything really but about him, Jesus.

So we don't need to worry, fret, be anxious

over the earth, climate change, past generations, future generations, the state of the economy.

All things are working out according to Colossians 1:16, 17 for by him were all things created that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or principalities, or powers, all things were created by him, and for him and he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Makes life a bit easier.
I looked up the goddess Gaia on Wikipedia that states she is a Greek myth, then in the Cambridge dictionary for mythology, a popular belief that is probably not true.

And Ecclesiastes sums it up in chapter 12:13, let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter, Fear God and keep his commandments, for this

is the whole duty of man.

And you should know it is wrong to kill, of course Deuteronomy 5:17 thou shalt not kill, that is referring to Cain who killed Able, a human cannot kill a human, not about animals, that is in genesis 1:26 and let them have dominion over fish, birds and animals, so there you go, if you choose to be a vegetarian it is a personal choice.

By the way, climate change is big business. Thanks John, keep calm and move on.
Ben Mitchell

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Ruapehu Mayor Weston Kirton

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

The Royal Theatre, Raetihi

23 Seddon Street, Raetihi 4632

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Theatre Royal (Waimarino) Charitable Trust
Welcome you to come along on

Thursday 20 August 2026 at 6pm
23 Seddon Street, Raetihi

The doors will open at 5pm for anyone wanting to have a look around and chat about the theatre.

The usual business of an AGM will be conducted, including the opportunity to discuss the future of the theatre.
Anyone wanting any information

Please email to: theatreroyalraetihi@gmail.com
or call 022 437 8405 or 06 928 7002



Ohakune Community Charitable Trust
AGM 6pm

Monday 31 August, at the Matterhorn
(upstairs at the Powderkeg)

Farewell & thank you reception for Dave Scott & Mike Wiggins 7pm

Secretary ohakunecct@gmail.com

All welcome.

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PUBLIC NOTICES



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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:

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Adie Doyle - Chair

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WAIMARINO BULLETIN

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Top award, NZ selection to Army chef

An Army chef at Waiouru Camp has won a major catering award and been selected for a New Zealand team to travel to Vancouver and Frankfurt.

Sergeant Brice Gordon, a catering instructor at the School of Transport and Catering, ATG, Waiouru, won a gold medal in the decorated butchers' meat class in the national salon culinaire held recently in Auckland.

Sergeant Gordon won his prize for a cold display rabbit dish for serving in a restaurant.

In a three-hour cook-off at the same event to prepare two representative New Zealand dishes, he was selected in the NZ master chefs team for the culinary Olympics at the Vancouver expo in 1987, and also at Frankfurt in 1988.

Sergeant Gordon's three dishes and selection of eight hors d'oeuvres, took an immense amount of research, practice and preparation before he was ready for the salon culinaire.

A description of the dishes, kept a closely guarded secret until after the competition, is sure to tweak the most jaded palate.

The meat dish was nut of lamb stuffed with spinach, mushroom and pheasant, wrapped in filo pastry, and served with tamarillo sauce, kumara mousseline and courgettes. If that isn't enough try the fish dish: salmon fillet stuffed with seaweed and sole in layers, served with crayfish sauce, scallop flesh flambé in

Pernod, rice timbal - saffron rice in a mould, and a scallop shell fan made of choux pastry.

Finally for his restaurant meal presented cold he did pan-fried chicken breasts stuffed with pate and spinach, garnished with pumpkin mousseline, broccoli sprigs, carrots and parsnips, and glazed with redcurrant sauce.

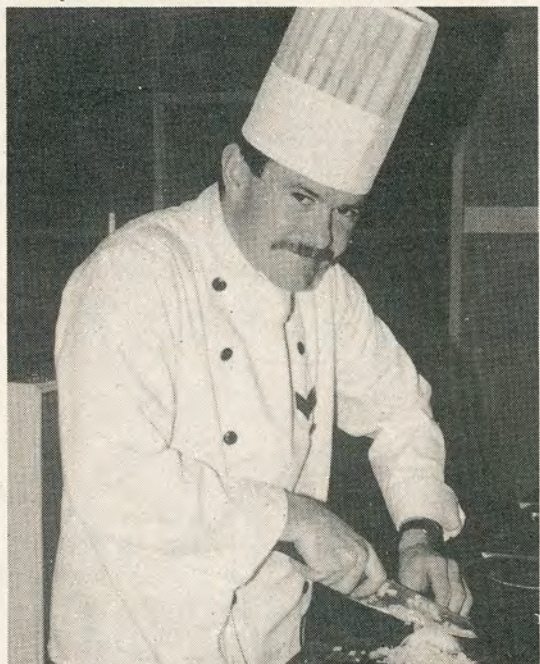
The presentation of the dishes was very important and the judges looked for tasteful arrangement of the food on the plate as well as gastronomic perfection.

Sergeant Gordon has already made a name for himself in the culinary world having won two gold and one silver medal, a certificate of merit and table of honour at London's hotel Olympia in January 1986.

Brice Gordon, inevitably known as "Flash", is still an Army chef, despite his international honours. Although now a catering instructor teaching others how to cook, he still gets out in the field during exercises cooking for hundreds of soldiers under field conditions.

All Army chefs are trained in the field cooking so that they can produce a nutritious and substantial meal for hungry troops. Part of the problem is to ensure that the meals are hot, and cooking under camouflage and black-out conditions is still a test of ingenuity.

Sergeant Gordon joined the Army eight years ago at 17 as a regular force cadet and went into catering area after his basic training.



Sergeant Brice Gordon, a catering instructor at Waiouru Camp, won a top prize at a national salon culinaire in Auckland last week as well as selection for a New Zealand master chefs' team.



Ohakune School teacher Anne Vincent with some of the children who made peace cranes to give to local businesses last week.

Give peace a chance...

Wednesday 6 August is a day marked in history with mourning and regret.

Forty-one years ago on that day, 200,000 people lost their lives in an instant, when the first atomic bomb, "little boy", was dropped on the city of Hiroshima.

A few days later a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki.

Thousands of people lost their lives later from radiation sickness and fallout.

Amongst them was a young Japanese girl who, as she was dying, attempted to fold 1000 paper cranes. The Japanese believed that producing 1000 cranes made from paper would restore health to an ailing body.

It is unfortunate that she died before she completed her task.

The paper crane is now the symbol of peace and is also a symbol of remembrance for Hiroshima.

Ohakune School pupils commemorated Hiroshima Day by folding paper cranes and delivering them to businesses in Ohakune.

Mayor Bill Taylor, was presented with a huge silver crane that is now hanging in the Public Library.

The business owners were happy to accept the peace symbols, which are now displayed in most shops as a recognition of Hiroshima Day, and also a realisation of the universal hope for world peace.

Motels for Ohakune

An 18-unit motel has been approved for construction in Goldfinch Street, Ohakune, to be called the Acorn.

The two-storeyed units, to cost about \$1 million, are to be built on five sections at present used for grazing horses.

A number of objections were received at last week's town planning hearing, mainly concerning noise, loss of views and decline in property values. Objectors have a month to appeal the granting of the application.

The Ohakune Borough Council went into committee to discuss the proposal.

Auckland architect Gary Tonks, who is designing the building, said that efforts had been made to keep the motels low-rise in keeping with the area. Appearance of the units will be quiet and unassuming, with attractive cedar weather-boarding.

Extensive landscaping is planned.

Neighbourhood support meeting planned

Awareness of the frequency of burglary, vandalism and other petty crime has led the Ruapehu Lions Club to call a public meeting to form a neighbourhood watch support group.

The proposal is based on the idea that ordinary people can do something about crime by being part of such a group.

Among the objectives of a

neighbourhood watch support group are to: help people help themselves, look after property, prevent home break-ins, prevent crime and vandalism, prevent theft and possible violence to homeowners and public, ensure the security of community and community property, report suspicious activities and help the police by supplying useful information.

People who are part of a

group can help one another protect their own and others property, and their personal safety.

A neighbourhood watch group will help to build a better community spirit, reduce crime and give people a greater sense of security in their homes and on the streets.

The meeting is to be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 19 August at the Lions Den, Arawa Street, Ohakune.

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

Kapa haka, ball time and exchange at Ruapehu College

From Page 8

“It was a fantastic setting for a day of friendly competition, great sportsmanship and plenty of opportunities for students to connect,” said Vine.

“Sport brings people together and this exchange was a true reflection of that.

“It was wonderful to see students from both schools have the opportunity to make new connections, build friendships with students from other countries, and create memories that will last well beyond the final whistle.

“We thank Bradford Grammar School for including Ruapehu College as part of their New Zealand tour.”

Basketball: The College Boys Basketball team travelled

to Whanganui on Friday 31 July to compete in the Senior Boys Grade Final against Whanganui High School. The boys put in a strong performance, with the final score 44–39, earning “a well-deserved second-place finish”.

“While the result didn’t go the team’s way, their improvement throughout the season has been outstanding. Week after week, they continued to develop their skills, build confidence and grow stronger as a team.

“Just as impressive as their basketball was the way they represented the college. The boys showed respect and demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and maturity both on and off the court,” said Vine.

He thanked Luke Paynter for his time coaching and



Nikora Henare-Richards and Karaitiana Horne - Kiwi leaders holding the Joan Akapita and Martin Mareikura Memorial Trophy, for the winning house in the kapa haka competition. Photo supplied.

transporting them to their games.

Enrolments and information evening

The College is currently taking enrolments for 2027 and working through a transition plan to support incoming students and their whānau.

This term, the principal will be visiting each of the contributing primary schools.

On Tuesday, 22 September at 6:00 pm, parents who have enrolled their child for 2027 are invited to an information evening at the College.

Community consultation

The Ruapehu College Board is currently setting the school’s strategic direction for 2027–2029.

“We want to ensure our goals reflect the aspirations of our students, whānau, and

wider community. Your feedback will play a crucial role in shaping our school’s priorities and supporting student success over the coming years. Please take a moment to complete this short questionnaire—your insight makes a real difference!

scan me!



Ruapehu College's 2026 Ball King and Queen, Jay Learmonth and Jordi Demchy. Photo: Holly Huriana Photography.

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