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more
Pyjamas
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P4**



**Sculpture
from
community
ideas
P9**

No bed tax: Ruapehu asks 'who will pay?'

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporter

Ruapehu's mayor Weston Kirton says National's decision to rule out a bed tax leaves tourism-heavy districts without a fair way to pay for the costs created by visitors.

National has ruled out an accommodation levy if re-elected, abandoning its previous position that it would consider the tax in its next term to help meet the cost of visitor demand.



Kirton said the decision removed a potential user-pays tool that could have eased the burden on Ruapehu ratepayers to fund infrastructure used by visitors.

"The question now is what mechanism is Government going to use to support districts like Ruapehu with small, high-decile deprivation ratepayer bases and large tourism demand."

The issue was particularly acute in the Ruapehu district, where a small ratepayer base faced the costs of infrastructure needed to service major visitor attractions like the Tongariro Crossing, the Ruapehu skifields, the Whanganui River journey, and the Tongariro and Whanganui national parks.

Ratepayers were already paying for tourism through council rates, Kirton said.

He backed visitors contributing directly to the costs they create.

Ruapehu district faces significant infrastructure pressures during tourist peaks, with roads, parking, water supply, wastewater treatment, waste collection and other services having to accommodate far more people than the relatively small permanent population.

Kirton said Ruapehu had previously benefited from government funding mechanisms such as the Tourism Infrastructure Fund, which helped pay for projects like the Ohakune Water Treatment Plant. That Fund was no longer available, he said.

Councils should have the option to introduce an accommodation levy if they wanted to, Kirton said.

"Government should also help in other ways such as providing a share of GST."

Mackenzie mayor Scott Aronsen also said his council was "extremely disappointed" by National backtracking on a potential bed tax.

The district, which has a small ratepayer base, "desperately" needed central government funding to support its rapid tourism growth, he said.

Tourism groups have called for visitors to contribute to the cost of roads, wastewater, car parks, toilets and other services, saying visitor-related infrastructure.

Turn to Page 2

Cold riders scoot into Horopito



A convoy of scooter riders made it all the way to Horopito riding their 50cc machines, taking all day Saturday, partly thanks to taking time out to weld a rear wheel back together after a breakage.

The "world's dumbest wellness retreat" saw around 200 riders converge on Horopito on the weekend, camping out in a paddock next to the Tongariro National Park.

Glenn Filcher, from the fundraising group Jolly Good Chaps, said the main purpose of the Cold Kahuna rally was to raise funds for various causes but also to have a "bloody good time".

The rallies are limited to petrol scooters and mopeds up to 125cc – with dozens of different types attending.

They raise funds for a variety of

Turn to Page 2

Time for Daffodils



A family from New Plymouth take time out from their holiday to enjoy a Daffodil Day steak sandwich on Friday, served up by volunteers including some of the Ohakune Primary School ambassadors and William Pike Challenge participants. See inside for details.

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Grants panel reshuffled after applicants left waiting for answers



Horizons councillor Te Kenehi Teira says changes to the community grants panel don't address which councillors are and aren't available.

By Rebecca Hogan, Local Democracy Reporter

Horizons Regional Council has voted to increase the number of councillors on its community grants panel in an attempt to streamline the process for next year.

At least five councillors on the panel are required to attend the annual meeting for a grant to be awarded. However, this quorum was often not met, causing delays in decisions on community grants.

The panel for the pūtea hapori urupare āhuarangi community climate response fund – which awards money to community groups invested in community climate responses – was stalled twice due to fewer than five councillors in attendance.

At least one applicant during the 2025/26 period wasn't notified of the success of their applications until 10 weeks after applications closed, three weeks later than the year before.

At Tuesday's meeting, the councillor-led panel grew from eight to 10, while the number of people required for a grant to be approved was reduced from five to three.

Busy schedules and a lack of time influenced why fewer

than five councillors were often able to attend the panels, but councillor Elijah Pue said he had “entrusted those councillors to get on with the job” and it was obvious the current system wasn't working.

Despite putting his name forward for the panel in 2027, councillor Te Kenehi Teira acknowledged there were still problems with “who is available and who is not” at any given time, which could cause further issues.

The panel drew from funds and approved grants based on how submissions fit the criteria for the pūtea hapori urupare āhuarangi community climate response fund, regional freshwater community grants, Manawātū freshwater community grants, and the kanorau koiora taketake indigenous biodiversity community grant.

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

No bed tax: Ruapehu asks ‘who will pay?’

From Page 1

structure costs can otherwise fall disproportionately on local ratepayers.

National has instead said it will look at using existing mechanisms to support councils with tourism-related costs

ACT has proposed a “Local Tourism Dividend”, with councils receiving \$1 per guest night in their area from GST and existing visitor levies.

Kirton said he wants a greater share of the International Visitor Levy used for essential infrastructure.

“The IVL currently collects \$100 from international visitors to support tourism infrastructure and conservation projects.

“While its application has generally focused on facilities such as tracks, trails, car parks and visitor centres, we believe there is a strong case for extending its use to essential infrastructure that directly enables visitor destinations to function,” he told Local Democracy Reporting.

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



Ruapehu mayor Weston Kirton at the Whakapapa ski area. Photo: Supplied.

Cold riders scoot

From Page 1

charities including a recent rally raising money for Testicular Cancer NZ “because we thought it was quite funny”. (Kahunas is slang for testicles).

“But we just decided this year we’re calling it the world’s dumbest wellness retreat.”

Among the many recipients of the \$657,082 raised in recent years has been for charities supporting men’s health and mental health.

“We raise an average of about \$180,000 each year,” says Filcher.

Why scooters?

“Access kind of to anybody. You can drive them on a car licence.

“They’re a bit safer (than big bikes), because you’d find a max speed of 60-65km/h.”

Because of the Central location, they get people from all around – Waikato, New Plymouth, Wellington, Tauranga, with the largest contingent from Hawkes Bay.

The weekend’s event is the fifth that has been “raising serious dingaling in a ‘not-so-serious way’.

Ruapehu Events & What's On

AUGUST 2026

Winter Art Exhibition23 Aug - 6 Sept
Paul Stieglbauer - paul@4thames.co.nz

SEPTEMBER 2026

Peak to Keg26 Sep
www.powderhorn.co.nz

Waimarino Art Awards26 Sept - 2 Oct
See WaimarinoArtAwards.org.nz for more information

OCTOBER 2026

Retro Day3 Oct
Paul Stieglbauer - paul@4thames.co.nz

Fashion Show17 Oct
Matterhorn - enquires to @OhakuneFashionShow.

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LKNZ LODGE & CAFE
1 Rata St, OhakunePh: 027 257 LKNZ (5569)

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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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Daffodil Day wins again for people living with cancer

Waimarino’s annual Daffodil Day lived up to its 2026 aim of raising hope as well as funds, judging by the good humour of all the volunteers and customers who supported the stalls in Raetihi and Ohakune with their cash on Friday.

Raetihi’s Daffodil Day organiser Catie Robb has apologised to the people who missed out on a chance to buy some goodies from their stall on Friday.

“What an incredible turnout – all the goodies were sold out in three hours!”

She passed on a special thank you to the newcomers this year for their generous donations: Wix, Hollie, Jay, Carina, Nikita and Dave and 4 Square.

Catie also thanked those who have supported her with the event over the years.

She said the grocery raffle was well supported with extra items. Winners were: Ricky Horne, Nikita Lilburn, Helen Cussins, Ann Roke, Angel Joyce and Barbara Fredricksen.

A big part of the success for the stall are the bakers.

“There is no way we could create all of this without you all – please keep it up.”

Catie thanks her helpers on the day for making it “such a fun day”.

“I’m over the moon to say that we’ve blown our record in money raised. Not all has been counted yet (awaiting eftpos totals) but we will

exceed \$3000.”

She invites anyone who enjoys baking or who would like to help next year to get in touch.

In Ohakune, where they concentrated on serving up steak sandwiches and sausages, they had people lining up almost before the barbecue was heated up.

Co-ordinator Sarah Drinkwater said that, with Raetihi doing a great job gathering donated baking, Ohakune’s focus was the barbecue, although they did have some donated baking on sale, including some from Ohakune Kindergarten.

Ohakune was supported by a number of volunteers who gave up most of the day to run the stall, as well as Ohakune Primary School pupils – ambassadors and participants in the William Pike Challenge.

Funds raised were given a large kick start when the Ruapehu Lions Club turned up with a \$1000 donation.

The day was also supported by local farmers, including with donated steak.

Sarah also thanked Ohakune New World for their ongoing support.

She said they were busy all day, until they ran out of steak when they called it a day.

The Ohakune stall raised at least as much as in 2025, but they are still waiting to have a final tally.



Ruapehu Lions provided a \$1000 kick start to the Waimarino Cancer Society’s Daffodil Day fundraiser on Friday, delivering the money to event co-ordinator Sarah Drinkwater (second from left). Also pictured are Lions members, from left, Fred Collett, Kathryn Greenwood and Stephanie Rogers. Photo: Lynn McMillan.

BAYLEYS



Ohakune 1 Tussock Way

Tussock Way hideaway

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Raetihi’s Daffodil Day stall was almost sagging with the weight of all the donated baking on Friday. Photo: Catie Robb.

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BAYLEYS

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Winter pyjama project reaches more families

A record 1582 people across the King Country, Central Plateau and Ruapehu regions will be warmer this winter thanks to Maru Energy Trust's annual Kahumoe Kaupapa PJ Project.

This year's project delivered 1582 pairs of new winter pyjamas to people in need, an increase of 140 pairs on last year's total of 1442. Together with generous community support, the project provided over \$13,000 worth of pyjamas to whānau across the region.

Beginning in 2022 with just 497 pairs donated, the project has grown significantly each year.

Maru Energy Trust chair Brian Hanna said the continuing growth of the project reflects both the generosity of local people and the increasing need across communities.

"The response to this project continues to be incredibly humbling. Every pair of pyjamas represents someone who cares enough to help others stay warm.

"While we'd all like to think there isn't a need for initiatives like this, the reality is that many families continue to face challenges. Something as simple as a warm pair of pyjamas can make a real difference to comfort, wellbeing and a good night's sleep," said Brian.

Maru Energy Trust worked alongside a wide range of social and community organisations and individuals who put their hand up to help identify and support people in need. Pyjamas were distributed across the TLC network area, including Mangakino, Turangi, Taumarunui, Ohakune, Maniaiti/Benneydale, Piopio, Ōtorohanga and Taharoa.

Maru co-ordinator Jo Meads said the success of the project relies on strong community partnerships.

"Working with organisations that know their communities best means we can ensure the pyjamas reach the people who need them most."

The project was supported by donations from many individuals. Contributions also came from several Maru providers and tradespeople who work alongside the Trust on their primary goal of delivering insulation and heat pump installations throughout the region.

Funding support was also provided by local organisations, several of which used the initiative as a way to engage and encourage giving among their own staff teams.

"We were delighted to see a number of first-time supporters join the project this year," said Jo.

Ngā Waihua o Paerangi Trust was one of the organisations involved in distributing pyjamas this year.

"To be warm is a basic right, not a privilege. The data tell us that for our families, the median personal income in Ruapehu is \$33,800 per year (compared to \$41,500 nationally)," said Helen Leahy, Pou Ārahi of Ngā Waihua o Paerangi Trust.

"It makes all the difference between surviving and thriving.

"When times are tough, sometimes even the ability to have warm clothing is a luxury. Ngā Waihua o Paerangi has been really happy to work with the Maru Trust on the PJ Project. Just the chance to have brand new fluffy pyjamas can bring a smile to our mokopuna in a way that touches our hearts."



Miria Rotana of Te Kūiti says her six tamariki were thrilled to receive new winter pyjamas. She is pictured with her nephew Kaia Rapana-Tata and Maru co-ordinator Jo Meads.

THE WEEKLY WORKOUT answers for each puzzle are included on this page 866

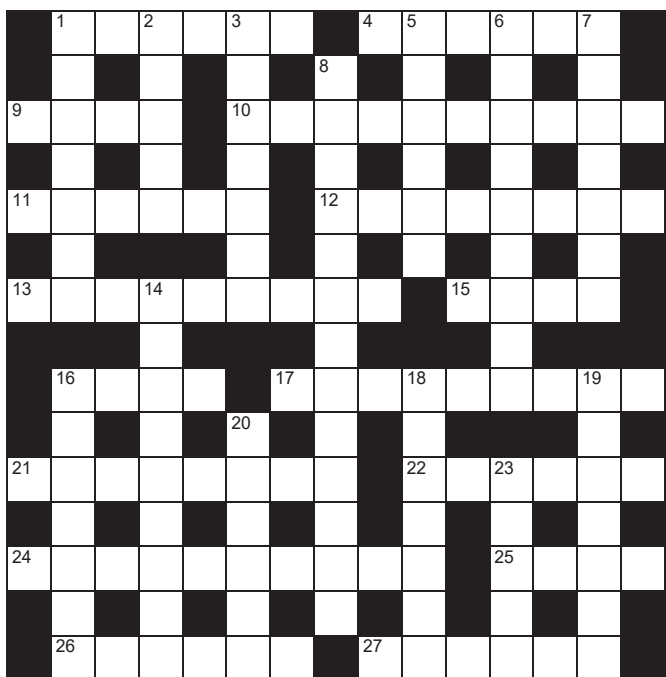
QUICK CROSSWORD

Across

- 1. Handgun (6)
- 4. Comrades (6)
- 9. Drill (4)
- 10. Headland (10)
- 11. Blood poisoning (6)
- 12. Clearly defined (8)
- 13. Operation (9)
- 15. Cook (4)
- 16. Young sheep (4)
- 17. Gain courage (4,5)
- 21. Individualist (4,4)
- 22. Animal feeder (6)
- 24. Recuparate (10)
- 25. Clearing the throat (4)
- 26. Soft, delicate (6)
- 27. Tension (6)

Down

- 1. Innovator (7)
- 2. Stalks (5)
- 3. Against (7)
- 5. Slacken (6)
- 6. Elaborate (9)
- 7. Suppose, presume (7)
- 8. Total mess (colloq) (4,9)
- 14. Mobile home (6,3)
- 16. Sentry (7)



- 18. Plead (7)
- 19. Go backwards (7)
- 20. Sheepdog (6)
- 23. Talk pompously (5)



THE TOP 10

- 1 Mt Hikurangi, 2 Quaver, 3 Tonga, 4 Siva Kolisi, 5 Canterbury, 6 Charlie Watts, 7 Stockholm, 8 Limestone, 9 Oscar Wilde, 10 A type of roof.

SUDOKU

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

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

1

HARD 2

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

EASY

The Top 10

- 1. Which mountain is the first point in New Zealand to see the new day's sun?
- 2. Which musical note has half the value of a crotchet?
- 3. Which islands did Captain Cook name the Friendly Islands?
- 4. Who captained South Africa in the 2019 and 2023 Rugby World Cups?
- 5. The New Zealand Cup is the feature race on which jockey club's programme?
- 6. Which member of the Rolling Stones died in 2021?
- 7. Which city is the home of Nobel prizes?
- 8. Is marble is formed by the metamorphosis of limestone, sandstone or granite?
- 9. Who wrote The Ballad of Reading Gaol after being imprisoned there?
- 10. Is a mansard a record of debates in Parliament, a type of roof, or a species of duck?

CROSSWORD

- 23. Orate.
- 18. Entreat, 19. Regress, 20. Collie, breakfast, 14. Camper van, 16. Lookout, 5. Loosen, 6. Intricate, 7. Surmise, 8. Dog's
- Down: 1. Pioneer, 2. Stems, 3. Opposed, 27. Stress.
- 24. Convalesce, 25. Ahem, 26. Tender, 17. Take heart, 21. Lone wolf, 22. Tough, 13. Procedure, 15. Bake, 16. Lamb, 10. Promontory, 11. Sepsis, 12. Specific.
- Across: 1. Pistol, 4. Allies, 9. Bore,

SUDOKU

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

New partnerships role focused on helping Ruapehu communities

Ruapehu District Council has established a new Community and Economic Partnerships role, following a review of what Ruapehu communities need from Council and how to best meet those needs.

Executive manager community, governance and resilience Tasha Paladin said that business relationship and development manager Kim Treen would transition into the lead role, which brings together business support, funding partnerships and community development activities.

Paladin said that Treen has been supporting businesses and community organisations in this way for some time.

"The new role provides a clearer focus for this work and recognises the important contribution strong partnerships make to Ruapehu's economic and community wellbeing," she said.

The Community and Economic Partnerships lead will provide a central point of contact for businesses and organisations seeking advice, connections or support to progress an idea or project.

The role includes managing the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs, Council's involvement in the Regional Business Partner Network, funding forums, the Ruapehu Film Office and FilmApp, and responding to business and development enquiries.

Treen said she was excited about the opportunity to help more Ruapehu businesses and organisations achieve their goals.

"Ruapehu has many passionate, innovative, community focused people with great ideas and ambitions for the future," she said.

"I am looking forward to working alongside them, helping connect them with the right people, information and opportunities, and supporting them to overcome barriers and achieve their objectives."

"When our businesses and organisations succeed, they create employment, strengthen our communities and help build a more resilient and prosperous Ruapehu."

Treen will also continue working closely with community groups, funding organisations and regional agencies to develop partnerships and bring more resources and opportunities into the district.

To help Ruapehu businesses and community organisations access as much funding as possible and improve their engagement with Council, Council is also seeking a Community Partnerships & Grants co-ordinator.

The six-month fixed-term position will work alongside Treen across grant rounds, funding and event coordination, and business and community enquiries.

Anyone interested in the position is encouraged to contact her on 027 506 3141.



Community & Economic Partnerships lead Kim Treen will provide a central point of contact for businesses and organisations seeking advice, connections or support to progress an idea or project.

Brunch shouts return to support rural communities

The Ruapehu Whanganui Rural Support Trust is once again bringing farmers and rural communities together for its annual Brunch Shouts, with two events planned across the district in September.

Now in their fourth year, the Brunch Shouts have become a popular opportunity for farmers, farm crews and rural families to take a break, catch up with others and enjoy a hearty feed in a relaxed environment.

Last year's events saw more than 180 farmers come together across the region – something the Rural Support Trust says demonstrates just how valuable these opportunities are for rural communities.

"This is about much more than providing a brunch," says the Ruapehu Whanganui Rural Support Trust.

"It's about checking in with our rural communities, making connections and reminding people that there is support available when they need it."

This year's Brunch Shouts will have a simple focus: check in and check out before summer.

"With the busy summer season just around the corner, the events provide an opportunity for farmers and their families and crews to take a couple of hours out of their day, have a good feed, catch up with others and perhaps even take home a spot prize."

There is no formal theme or agenda – "just good food, good company and an opportunity to connect".

The Brunch Shouts will be held in Taumarunui on Friday 11 September at Totally Vets, 11.00am–1.00pm; and at Raetihi on Friday 18 September at Catalyst Agronomy, 11.00am–1.00pm.

The events supported by local organisations and businesses.

"The support we receive from our local businesses and organisations is hugely appreciated. It allows us to bring people together and, importantly, shows our farmers that the wider community genuinely cares about their wellbeing and livelihoods."



RUAPEHU-WHANGANUI

BRUNCH SHOUT

11am - 1pm

Friday 11th September
Totally Vets, 168 Hakiaha St,
Taumarunui

Friday 18th September
Catalyst Performance
Agronomy,
15 Railway Road, Raetihi



"Tap out of Winter and Tap in for Summer"

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for a warm brew, hearty feed, solid yarn
and a chance at walking away with a spot prize.

All welcome!































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VOICE OF THE RUAPEHU REGION
Tuesday 2 September 1986. Volume 4 No. 14

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Tourist developments at Pipiriki?

People visiting Pipiriki for Wanganui River holidays may soon be able to enjoy a meal in pleasant surroundings if approval is given by the Waimarino County Council.

The Pipiriki Incorporation is planning to build a restaurant and shop on the site of Pipiriki House, which was destroyed by fire in 1959.

The chairman of the incorporation, Bill Wright of Waikanae, said that manager's accommodation, toilet and shower facilities for camper vans and campers were also envisaged.

"We hope to attract bus tours and the restaurant will be able to accommodate up to 60 people," said Mr Wright.

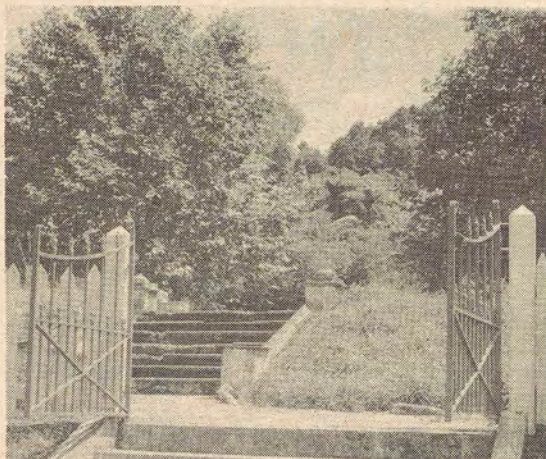
He said that the type of meal planned would be suitable for the average New Zealand family, and that the shop would sell food and other basic requirements for Pipiriki's residents who at present have to travel to Raetihi or Wanganui.

The development at Pipiriki should provide employment for some of Pipiriki's people.

"The main idea is to give jobs to the locals and we are going to set up a training scheme once construction starts so they can walk in to the jobs when it's finished," he said.

Eventually a motel with 25 self-contained twin motel units is planned.

It is intended that the restaurant will tie in with Aotea Tours, recently given approval by the Transport Licensing Authority to run tours along the Wanganui River Road in its \$320,000 Volvo coach.



These steps once led to grand living - will they again? Pipiriki House, destroyed by fire in 1959, was built on this Pipiriki site. Planned developments on the site may again attract tourists.

The Wanganui based company is owned by Ngaporo-Waimarino Forest Trust, which leases Maori land for forestry in the Pipiriki-Wanganui area.

Hoani Hipango, manager of Aotea Tours, said that the company would operate a west coast route, from Wanganui up the Parapara road to Ohakune, on to Taupo and then to Rotorua.

In summer the Wanganui River road would be used to offer tourists a unique experience, with the eventual option of a two-day stop-over at Pipiriki.

Mr Hipango said that the company intended to take advantage of increased tourism with scheduled tours and charters in the hope that Maori people in the Wanganui-Waimarino area would get some benefit.

"They might be able to offer morning and afternoon teas and cultural experiences at maraes which would provide opportunities in areas where there is at present little employment," he said.

Mr Hipango said Aotea Tours was very pleased to have the services of John Haami, a driver with Newmans for 12 years. Mr Haami comes from the Wanganui River area, and as well as an extensive knowledge of New Zealand-wide tourist routes, has a rich cultural heritage to offer tourists.

Mr Hipango said the company wanted to concentrate on the whole Volcanic Plateau area which included utilising the attractions in and around Ohakune. This would include the possibility of making Ohakune an accommodation stopover point.



Turoa district award winner at the Turoa Art Awards Ashley Watt of Ohakune, with his oil painting Topine Temamaku, chief of Whanganui.

Impressive display at Turoa Art Awards

Turoa Art Awards judge Tony Arthur from the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts told the audience at the exhibition preview on Sunday night that the judging had been difficult because of the high standard and range of exhibitors.

He congratulated the many artist who contributed 160 entries and said that he would like to see them sending entries to the academy in Wellington.

The prestigious premier award of \$1000 went to Don Hill of Taupo for High Tide, a fine oil painted seascape, which Mr Arthur said had a very atmospheric feeling without being at all fiddly.

The Turoa district award of \$250 went to Ashley Watt of Ohakune for his oil of Topine Temamaku, chief of Whanganui. Mr Arthur commented that this was substantial work.

The other awards were: any other medium - an ink composition, Automation by P. Donne of Wanganui, special award of \$100 to Ross Whitlock of Wanganui for his acrylic of Castlecliff Port, water colour award of \$500 to Ngaire Lourie of Palmerston North for her picture Magnolias, and the oil award to Joyce Atkinson for Winter '86.

Ohakune Mayor Bill Taylor welcomed visitors and exhibitors and said the borough of Ohakune was

delighted to support the awards.

He thanked the sponsors: John and Johan Sandford, Trustebank Wanganui, the Ohakune Borough, and the major sponsor of the premier award Elizabeth Baigent.

Mr Taylor said that the Turoa Art Awards was now the pre-eminent regional art award in the country and was a focus for artists outside the main urban centres.

He announced that Elizabeth Baigent had decided to greatly increase the level of her sponsorship to \$5000 a

year for a minimum of three years which assured the future of the event.

"This will also enable a local award to be offered for young artists to help them make further study in the arts," he said.

He also thanked the Ohakune Club for generously hosting the exhibition of the awards, Mrs Delamare and her staff, the Ruapehu Lions Club, particularly Jim Cranston and Wally Parkes, Bea and Dot Barnes, the convenor of the event Ellen Gould and her supporting committee, and Tony Arthur for his judging.

Waikune closure concerns Nat Park

Waikune Prison is set to close in the near future, but when it does, what will be the future of the buildings and the near-by township of National Park?

Spokesman for the local community council, Marshall Gebbie, expressed concern at the closure and the repercussions on National Park, particularly if the prison became a tourist resort for skiers.

"We also don't want to see the institution fractionated if it's handed over to a body that will work with the community, well that's marvellous. We don't want to see it blown to the four winds," he said.

Mr Gebbie said that the community council had made all manner of propositions to the Government, but "to no avail".

"Frank O'Flynn said that the army didn't want it, but that's not what they told me," he said.

"An MP said to me 'I think they're making a mistake - they're going to need that prison', and I agree with him."

Mr Gebbie felt that a lobby on the closure by National Park residents would be ineffective, and that it would take a far greater force to sway any decision-making at this time.

National Park residents also fear that the loss of 33 prison staff and their families will result in the downgrading of the local primary school.

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Councillors' training costs part of 100k blowout

By Rebecca Hogan, Local Democracy Reporter

Annual expenses for Horizons councillors were almost \$100,000 over budget due to factors such as rising fuel and food costs, coupled with extra council meetings and training.

By 30 June, regional councillors ended up spending \$96,339 over the \$1,650,730 it had budgeted for councillors' expenses across the 2025-26 financial year.

Members' training and travelling expenses were one of the largest factors contributing to the 6% overspend within the "councillors home cost centre budget" presented on Wednesday to Horizons audit, risk and investment committee.

A total of \$85,205 was spent on councillors' training costs – including training fees, registration, site visits, travel expenses and refreshments – resulting in an overspend of \$61,263.

Within the Annual Plan, \$44,048 had been budgeted for councillors' meeting travel expenses, but a total of \$89,993

was spent on such expenses by the end of the financial year. Part of this specific overspend could be attributed to the rising cost of fuel globally because of on-going tensions in the Middle East.

Councillors also spent double their cafeteria and food budget across 2025/26, with \$31,728 spent on such services but only \$15,315 allocated towards kai and catering within the annual plan.

However, other areas of the budget were underspent, including for consulting and agency fees, legal services and subscriptions.

Council chief executive Michael McCartney was investigating ways to reduce catering costs in the future and he joked on Wednesday that councillors' lunches may need to become no more than "dry crackers and water" to save money.

Cara Hesselin, Horizons group manager for governance engagement and transformation, said the 6% total overspend would be funded through general reserves – which were in surplus – from previous

governance budgets.

She said such overspends tended to "balance out" over the council's long term plan cycle and it wasn't uncommon for the budget to be overspent following an election year because induction costs weren't yet fully accommodated within the annual budget.

In April, it was revealed nearly \$40,000 had been spent within this budget on February workshops for councillors – a financially-weighted decision, which was made without public consultation or warning.

In reviewing the budget, councillor Fiona Gordon thanked the governance team for their explanation of the overspend and for listening to the requests of the previous

council by providing the new council with "very thorough" induction and training processes across 2025/26.

Gordon recognised councillor training and additional workshops came with a cost, but she felt it was a key investment for both the council and community.

Chairman of the committee Elijah Pue asked the council to consider a reduction in the number of workshops it held annually to try and keep overspends down.

Given public scrutiny on council overspending, Pue said it was good practice to continue presenting councillors' expenses within the public forum.

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



Regional councillor Fiona Gordon acknowledges the cost of such training, but is thankful for the "very thorough" induction the new council underwent this year. Photo: Warwick Smith / Manawātū Standard.

Ohakune Squash

Results from Thursday's Ohakune Squash Club interbusiness competition: In pool one Eagle beat Baboon 12-6, Crab beat Deer 12-8, Watlings beat Potty Mouths 11-8 and Rabbit got 8 points for the bye. In pool two Fatz Oysters beat Peacock 14-3, Goat beat Horse 17-0, Frog beat Orange Choc Chip 14-4 and Alpaca got 8 points for the bye. In pool three Ibex beat Jaguar 15-3, Moose beat Narwhal 13-7, Kiwi beat Lion 14-3 and Octopus got 8 points for the bye. Points after four weeks are: pool one, Eagle take over the lead on 47, Deer 45, Crab 36, Baboon 35, Rabbit 34, Watlings 29, Potty Mouths 28; Pool two, Goat 60, Fatz Oysters 50, Alpaca 42, Frog 40, Peacock 24, Horse 20, Orange Choc Chip 19. Pool three: Kiwi take over the lead on 46, Ibex 43, Narwhal 42, Lion 37, Octopus 35, Moose 35, Jaguar 21.

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

The junior Tecnifibre series starts this Sunday with the first of ten tournaments hosted at Ohakune. Entries made on mysquash or contact Matt direct. Interclub doubles continues on Tuesday evenings with all teams at Turangi this week.



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Goats and deer in the sights of \$9.7 m IVL funding

A four-year funding boost of \$9.7 million, announced by Minister for Conservation Tama Potaka, will help protect New Zealand's national parks and native ecosystems from wild goats and deer.

"When left unchecked, wild goats and deer can cause significant damage and impact productivity for farmers and other land managers," Potaka says.

The funding, from the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL), enables targeted wild goat and deer management in nationally significant conservation areas, reducing browsing pressure on native vegetation and supporting ecosystem recovery.

"This IVL investment means DOC will continue achieving significant conservation gains by reducing wild goat and deer impacts across some of

New Zealand's most important conservation landscapes — including Whanganui National Park and Waitōtara Conservation Area in the North Island, and Kahurangi, Nelson Lakes, Westland Te Tai Poutini, and Fiordland National Parks in the South Island," Potaka says.

"The programme strengthens monitoring, surveillance and operational capability, helping protect previous investments, reduce reinvasion risk, and build the knowledge and partnerships needed to deliver long-term biodiversity outcomes.

"It also builds on the strong progress of priority wild goat and deer work in these national parks, amplifying the biodiversity gains in some of New Zealand's most important conservation landscapes."



More wild goats will be in the sights of cullers after the Government announced an extra \$9.7m in funding.

Ruapehu Bulletin

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Kirton up for rates cap – wants to meet target early

Ruapehu's mayor Weston Kirton has welcomed the Government's decision to require councils to keep annual rates increases within a target range of 2 to 4 percent.

"Rates are already too high for many people and, with water costs under the new water entity with Whanganui forecast to increase significantly in coming years, they need to come down," he said.

Councils will be required to consider the target range when preparing their new Long-Term Plans from 1 July 2027, with the rates cap taking full effect from 1 July 2029.

"Now that the Government has confirmed both the target range and the timeframe, councils know

what they must work within and when they need to achieve it.

"Although some in local government have highlighted the potential negative consequences of rates capping, we cannot simply keep raising rates on communities that are already struggling."

Kirton said that while councils had been given the 2027/28 and 2028/29 financial years to transition to the new target range, he wanted Ruapehu District Council to achieve it sooner.

"I accept that reducing expenditure while managing ongoing cost pressures will not be easy, but I am confident we can work with the community to achieve the target range ahead of the 1 July 2029 deadline."

Kirton said Council had already begun examining what services it could afford to provide in a rates-capped environment.

"With costs continuing to rise and Council set to lose its water services income, we simply will not be able to maintain every service at its current level under a 4 percent rates cap."

"In preparation for our new 2027–2037 Long-Term Plan, we surveyed our communities to understand which services they value most, where they believe savings could be made and what trade-offs they may be prepared to consider."

The council is now costing a range of service-level options informed by that feedback.

Later this year, these options will be presented to the community to help confirm the service levels to be included in the 2027–2037 Long-Term Plan.

Kirton said the Government had indicated that councils facing funding shortfalls should consider greater use of user-pays charges.

"People may need to consider whether they would prefer increases in some fees and charges, or targeted rates for particular services, as a trade-off for keeping general rates lower or maintaining a valued service."

"We need to strike the right balance between keeping rates affordable and continuing to provide the services our communities genuinely value," he said.

A sculpture shaped by the voice of the community

Local sculptor Raynor Dunn was earlier this year commissioned by the Ruapehu Arts Advisory Group to create a new public artwork for the district. He was given the theme of kotahitanga: unity, togetherness, collective strength. His early concept was a male figure and he had a clear sense of where the work might go. But as the project unfolded, the sculpture began to shift.

Raynor spent a full day in his workshop sitting with the ideas gathered through community consultation. He studied the vision boards, reading the words, drawings, and reflections people had shared about what kotahitanga meant to them. He paid particular attention to the voices of children – their hopes, their sense of belonging, their imagination. What began as a personal concept slowly transformed into something shaped by many hands.

"I found it profoundly moving," Raynor says.

"The more I looked at what the community had shared, the more my original concept changed."

The figure evolved into a female form and Raynor says a great deal of love has gone into its creation. The work incorporates contributions from others along the way, including artist Chelsea Fox, whose influence added a soft, feminine energy to the piece. The sculpture now embodies the strength and movement of the mountains, rivers and lake. The natural landscape that surrounds and connects the Ruapehu community.

For Raynor, the project has become far more than a commission. It has been a journey of listening, creativity, and collaboration. He says the consultation process allowed him to hear the desires of the community clearly, and that the experience has been uplifting and has expanded his own creative practice.

"All things are part of a journey," he says.

"This journey has evolved through collaboration, and it has created something quite special for all of us."

The finished sculpture carries the voices of the community, the imagination of its children, the softness of feminine energy and the enduring strength of the land. It is a work shaped by many perspectives; and in doing so, it has become something that belongs to all of us.

Ruapehu councillor John Chapman, co-ordinator of the Mayoral Arts Advisory Group, says:

"Kotahitanga is not just a theme. It is a commitment to listening to each other and creating together. This sculpture reflects the heart of our community. It shows what can happen when people share their ideas openly, and artists respond with generosity. The result is a piece of public art that truly carries the voice of Ruapehu."

The group also extends its thanks to Ruapehu Creative for its support through the funding application process. Their contribution reflects the same spirit of kotahitanga that inspired the artwork itself, people and organisations working together to create something meaningful for the wider community.

The mayor, Weston Kirton, said supporting greater visibility for the arts and creating opportunities to bring creativity into public spaces was a key objective of the Arts Advisory Group.

"Public art enriches our shared spaces, celebrates our identity, and provides a powerful way to tell the stories of our people and district."

"I look forward to the Arts Advisory Group creating further opportunities for our artists to bring the stories, people and character of our district to life through public art," he said.



Artist Raynor Dunn and Ida Te Waiata Hamm of Ruapehu Creative, with Ruapehu's mayor Weston Kirton. Photo supplied.



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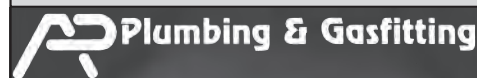


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Ruapehu Mayor Weston Kirton

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PUBLIC NOTICES



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

Ngā manga iti, ngā manga nui e honohono kau ana hei Awa Tupua.

The Annual General Meeting of Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui Trust and presentation of the Annual Report for the period of 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026 will be held on:

Sunday 27 September 2026, 10.00am
Kaiwhaiki Marae, Kaiwhaiki Road, Whanganui

AGENDA:

1. Karakia and Apologies
2. Presentation of Annual Report
3. Presentation of Annual Plan
4. Resolutions
 - a. Approve appointment of auditor
 - b. Approve trustee remuneration
5. Declaration of Results and Minutes from the Special General Meeting
6. Karakia Whakamutunga

The annual report will be made available on the Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui website (www.ngatangatatiaki.co.nz) from 21 September 2026.

Transport will also be made available for those wanting to attend, please contact the office at 357 Victoria Avenue, Whanganui or phone 0800 AWA TUPUA (0800 292 8878).

Nau mai e ngā hapū me ngā iwi o tai, o uta, huri noa.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Raetihi Promotions Charitable Trust AGM

Monday 21 September at 7.30pm
Raetihi Chambers, 46 Seddon St, Raetihi.
All Welcome.

Expression of interest to be a trustee contact Helen Cussins 0272 216 231.

MEETING CANCELLATION

The Climate Action Joint Committee meeting previously advertised to be held on Monday, 7 September 2026 has been cancelled.

M J McCartney
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



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NOTIFICATION OF HORIZONS REGIONAL COUNCIL'S INTENTION TO UNDERTAKE ITS SPRAYING PROGRAMME FOR THE 2026 / 2027 SEASON WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF PALMERSTON NORTH, THE RANGITIKEI, MANAWATŪ, RUAPEHU, WHANGANUI, HOROWHENUA AND THE TARARUA DISTRICT

Horizons Regional Council hereby notifies the public of its intention to commence the spraying of River and Drainage Scheme drains and watercourses, that are currently under the management of this Council. These River and Drainage Schemes are located within the following districts:

Palmerston North, the Manawatū, Rangitikei, Ruapehu, Whanganui, Tararua and Horowhenua districts.

Works are expected to be carried out in the months from September 2026 – July 2027. The General Public and Individual landowners can access our website to view where works are planned for the coming month (Go to Environment > Natural Hazards and Flood Management > River Management. Scroll down to **planned works**.) (You can also use this link to access works maps: <https://www.horizons.govt.nz/environment/natural-hazards-and-flood-management/river-management>)

If you have any further queries or further question around works being undertaken in your area please contact us by:

- Submitting any queries via email to rmenquiries@horizons.govt.nz, or
- Calling Horizons free-phone **0508 800 800**.



horizons.govt.nz



PUBLIC NOTICES



Āti hau-Whanganui Incorporation Nominations to the Committee of Management

Āti hau-Whanganui Incorporation advises that nominations to the Committee of Management are required to be received at the Āti hau-Whanganui Incorporation Office, P O Box 4035, Whanganui by 4pm on Wednesday 30th September 2026.

Two (2) places are required to be filled due to Committee of Management members retiring by rotation.

This appointment will be for a period of three years.

The Committee of Management are elected by Shareholders and are responsible for setting the strategic direction for the Incorporation. They are also responsible for monitoring how the strategy is being implemented.

While you are not required to be a shareholder of the Incorporation to stand, your application must be accompanied by a nomination from a shareholder or representative of a shareholder.

The candidate must include a recent digital photo and a personal statement of no more than 300 words explaining why they are seeking election onto the Committee of Management, as well as their relevant skills and expertise.

A nomination form will be available on the Āti hau-Whanganui Incorporation website www.atihau.com or alternatively, contact the office on 06 3487213 or email office@atihau.com.

Paul Maguire, Secretary
PO Box 4035, 35 Drews Avenue Whanganui

PUBLIC NOTICES

Section 101, Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012

Miro Street Liquor Limited has made an application to the District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council for the **Renewal of an Off Licence** in respect of the premises situated at **8 Miro Street, Ohakune** known as **Liquorland (Ohakune)**. The general nature of the business to be conducted under the licence is that of a **Bottle Store**. The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is intended to be sold under the licence are: **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 issue of a licence may be made in relation to a matter other than a matter specified in section 105(1) of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

This is the first publication of this notice.

Review clears Horizons councillor of breaking rules

By Moana Ellis

Horizons Regional councillor Elijah Pue has been cleared of breaching conflict-of-interest rules after an independent legal review found he had no financial interest in a Ngā Wai Tōtā work programme decision.

The review by law firm Simpson Grierson concluded Pue’s participation in the decision on 26 May was lawful. It found that speaking on the item, moving resolutions and voting on them did not breach legislation.

Pue is the Māori constituency councillor for the part of the Horizons region affected by Ngā Wai Tōtā.

The complaints arose from Pue’s cultural and governance connections to central North Island iwi Ngāti Rangi.

Two public complaints alleged he had a conflict because of his affiliation with Ngāti Rangi and governance roles, including as a trustee of Te Tōtarahoe o Paerangi Trust, which appoints a representative to Ngā Wai Tōtā.

The review found those connections existed but did not amount to a disqualifying pecuniary conflict or unlawful bias. It also found no basis for invalidating the council’s decision.

“Looking at all the circumstances and the context I could see there wasn’t a level of conflict or impartiality,” the law firm’s Jonathan Salter told councillors.

Anonymous complaint

At a council meeting in Palmerston North on Tuesday last week, Pue said the investigation confirmed his position that he had acted appropriately.

But he said he was disappointed by the process that led to the investigation, particularly because the original concern came from a complainant who asked to remain anonymous.

“What troubles me is that council moved quickly to

protect the privacy of the person raising concerns before first considering the merits of those concerns, or the impact that process would have on the person who was the subject of them,” Pue told the council.

The complaints were received in an email to councillor Gordon McKellar and a text message received by council chair Nikki Riley.

Pue said he understood anonymity had been requested because a complainant feared being disadvantaged in a Resource Management Act process.

He asked why an anonymous communication had been sufficient to trigger an external investigation at ratepayer expense.

“What was the basis upon which ratepayer funds were committed to engaging a lawyer to investigate a matter that could have been resolved by simply asking the relevant questions in the first place?”

Councillor Jono Naylor also said he was concerned at the time and energy being put into addressing anonymous complaints.

“We can’t do this every time we receive an anonymous text.”

Pue said he did not object to the investigation.

“If questions are raised about my conduct, integrity or decision-making, then those matters should be examined.”

However, he said the concerns could have been raised directly with him.

He also raised concerns about what he described as inconsistent treatment of councillors.

Pue said another councillor had declared an interest in relation to the same agenda item but had not been subject to an equivalent complaint or external investigation.

“In my case, I declared a conflict in writing, I declared



Anonymous complaints led to an independent legal review into whether Horizons Regional councillor Elijah Pue breached conflict-of-interest rules. Photo: Tuakana Te Tana.

it again at the meeting and explained the extent of it, and the matter progressed all the way to a formal investigation at the ratepayer’s expense.”

Pue said he had not received an explanation that accounted for the difference

in approach.

The review said the underlying decision in May involved funding for Ngā Wai Tōtā.

A key matter was a recommendation on the council’s financial commitment to the Ngā Wai Tōtā work programme and the development of Te Tāhoratanga, the catchment policy document associated with natural-resource management.

The review said Pue was clearly “interested” in the issue through his iwi affiliations, governance responsibilities, support for Ngā Wai Tōtā and his role as the Māori constituency councillor for the relevant area.

But Salter said that was not a disqualifying conflict. Cultural connections were not considered financial interests and the circumstances did not create a serious appearance of bias.



CLASSIFIEDS

Deadline 5pm Friday.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2026 Trustee Election



Te Whiringa Kākaho o Ngāti Hāua Trust (the Trust) is the PSGE entity established to receive, manage, hold and administer Trust Assets on behalf of and for the benefit of present and future Members of Ngāti Hāua in accordance with Trust Deed.

The Trust is currently governed by Seven (7) initial Trustees. The initial Trustees’ term of office ends at the successful completion of this election process. In this first election, nominations are called to fill all seven (7) Trustee positions. At least three (3) of the successfully elected Trustees must be Resident (at least 50% of the year) in the Ngāti Hāua Area of Interest. The elected Trustees will take office at the conclusion of the AGM on 12 December 2026.

The Trust now calls for nominations from Adult Registered Members of the Trust for the Seven (7) available Trustee positions.

Nominations must be made on an official nomination form and submitted in full to the Returning Officer by the close of nominations at **5pm on Thursday 10 September 2026**.

Candidates must meet the eligibility criteria set out in rule 2.1 of the Second Schedule of the Trust Deed. The Trust will give further notification of the election process after nominations have closed.

Hui ā-iwi - Candidates’ Forum

Following the close of nominations a Hui ā-iwi will be held. Open to all Adult Registered Members for the purpose of a candidates’ forum where the nominees will be required to present to those Adult Registered Members in attendance.

All candidates are required to attend (either in person or online). The Hui will be held in-person and online.

10am Saturday 10 October 2026

Ngāpuwaiwaha Marae, Taumarunui

Voting

Where more nominations are received than available positions an election will be held via postal and online voting. Voting will open on Monday 2 November 2026 and voting will close on Friday 4 December 2026.

Membership Registration

The Trust also takes this opportunity to invite all adults of Ngāti Hāua descent who have not already registered, to do so by completing a registration form. To be eligible to vote in the Trustee election, registrations must be submitted to the Trust by **5pm on Thursday 10 September 2026**. All registrations are subject to the Trust’s standard validation process.

Registration forms and nomination papers can be sourced from the Returning Officer using the below details.

The Returning Officer
electionz.com Ltd
PO Box 3138, Christchurch
Ph 0800 666 928, Email vote@electionz.com



PUBLIC NOTICES

Ngā Waihua o Paerangi Trust September Clinics

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

SERVICES AVAILABLE

Kaupapa Māori mental health and addictions (Rebecca)
Supporting/ addressing needs of tangata whaiora
Drug & alcohol intervention
After hours emergencies – mental health assessment & treatment team 0800 653 358

Whānau Ora (Tina, Darnella, Sylvia, Virginia)
Wrap around services for those with high health and social needs.
Advice and advocacy support
Support for GP practice

Tamariki Ora (Tina and Katherine)
Well child checks for pēpi 0-5 years
Kaiawhina additional support

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

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

Offices Closed
All offices will be closed on Tuesday 15 September due to Hauora Day.

Infant CPR and how to respond to a choking toddler
With Sandra Speir from Medi Train – Thursday 17 September, 10am to 12pm at Ngāti Rangi Health Centre. Please RSVP to Katherine for catering purposes.

Prostate awareness hui
With Dr Dave Baldwin from the Healthy Bastards Helping Hand Foundation at the Raetihi Cosmopolitan Club on Thursday 17 August at 5pm. Finger food provided.

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

We have an AED Defibrillator available on site.

PUBLIC NOTICES



WAIMARINO SHEARS

NOTICE OF AGM

Hui ā Tau

Wednesday 23 September 2026 6pm
Raetihi Cosy Club, Seddon St, RAETIHI

AGENDA

1. Annual report Pūrongo-a-Tau 2026
2. Finance report
3. Minutes of AGM Hui-ā-Tau 2025 confirmation
4. Minutes of Special AGM 2026 confirmation
5. General business

Nau mai haere mai ra.

For everything Ohakune, visit

www.ohakune.info

School sings for Daffodils



Pupils from Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngāti Rangī (back, right) sing for customers at the Ohakune Daffodil Day stall on Friday. Photo: Viv Hoeta.

Lines firm pays out \$6.7m

The Lines Company (TLC) has released its 2026 Annual Report, claiming “a year of continued investment in the electricity network, strong community outcomes and a growing focus on collaboration across the energy sector”.

During the year, the company invested \$22 million in its network aiming to improve reliability, resilience and safety for customers across the King Country, central plateau and Ruapehu regions.

The company also returned \$6.7 million in discounts to beneficiaries of its shareholder, Waitomo Energy Services Customer Trust (WESCT). These beneficiaries, primarily reside in or around Te Kūiti, Ōtorohanga, Piopio, Mangakino and Mōkau (not the Ruapehu District, which TLC also serves).

Chief executive Mike Fox said the year demonstrated the value of partnership in delivering better outcomes for customers, communities and the wider electricity sector.

“The electricity sector is facing increasing pressure to balance affordability, reliability and the significant investment needed for the future. We believe collaboration is key to meeting these challenges while continuing to deliver value for our communities,” said Fox.

The report highlights the company’s Shared Platform and Services partnership with Counties Energy, ongoing investment in energy hardship initiatives, support for community resilience projects and continued funding for the Maru Energy Trust.

It also reported improved employee engagement, recognition as a finalist in the wellbeing category at the Energy Excellence Awards and an Innovation Award win for its use of helisaw technology for vegetation management.

“As a community-owned company, our focus remains firmly on the long-term wellbeing of our customers and communities. Community ownership allows us to invest back into our network, support initiatives that make a real difference and ensure we are creating value for future generations,” said Fox.

TLC is 100% owned by its shareholder WESCT on behalf of its beneficiaries and remains committed to growing communities with energy through its strategic focus on people, partnerships, community and exceptional asset management.

Bates kicks off election campaign

Whanganui’s National Party MP, Carl Bates, kicked off his 2026 election campaign in Whanganui on Saturday.

With the change in electoral boundaries, Ruapehu District switches from Rangitikei to Whanganui, hence Bates campaigning in Ruapehu.

He says not even the late unavailability of Education Minister Hon Erica Stanford due to illness could dim the enthusiasm of more than 100 party members, friends and supporters who attended the campaign launch.

Instead, Finance Minister Hon Nicola Willis rearranged her day and drove up from Wellington to speak to the gathering.

“This reflects the importance the National Party attaches to the Whanganui electorate and its MP,” says Bates.

Minister Willis told attendees that Carl Bates has been a very effective electorate MP, always advocating for Whanganui.

She noted that while people in the electorate see Carl’s advocacy at a local level, she sees the effectiveness of that advocacy in Wellington, in the National Party’s caucus, and in the representations he makes to Ministers on a wide range of issues.

Among many things Carl spoke of pride about having achieved or been involved in were the calls he made to more than a dozen school principals within the electorate

two weeks ago to tell them their schools had been selected for the initial rollout of Solar on Schools.

Solar panels will be installed on school roofs enabling the schools to cut their energy bills by an average of \$8000 per annum, money which could then be reinvested into other aspects of school budgets. Among the schools selected for the programme are six schools from the Ruapehu area.

With the Whanganui electorate increasing in size to include much of the Ruapehu District for this year’s election, Bates says he is already building relationships in the area. Ruapehu Mayor Westin Kirton and Cr John Chapman attended the function along with Whanganui Mayor Andrew Tripe, Horizons Regional Council Chair Nikki Riley and several Whanganui councillors.

Bates says he is aiming to become the first Whanganui MP to be re-elected since Hon Chester Borrows in 2014. Both he and Nicola Willis also reiterated the importance of re-electing a National-led Government and made clear that the only way to achieve this with certainty is two ticks for National.

Parliament rises on 24 September, however Bates says he will continue with his MP duties until election day, while also campaigning throughout the expanded Whanganui electorate.



Carl Bates addresses attendees at his campaign launch on Saturday, as Hon Nicola Willis looks on. Photo supplied.



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