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**Cold
Kiwis
gather
again
P2**



**Ruatiti
Road open
soon (at
last)
P3**



**New hut
open
December
P5**



**So
Squishy
wins
P12**

Last days for Rangataua School

Rangataua School is no more.

Contractors have been working for several months to remove a large amount of asbestos, followed by using diggers to demolish the schoolhouse and the main school building.

The former Rangataua School site is managed by Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) as part of the Treaty Settlements Landbank.

Project delivery leader Sarah Thompson said properties enter the Landbank when they are no longer required for public work and may be suitable for use as cultural or commercial redress in a future Treaty settlement. LINZ manages these properties on behalf of the Crown while they remain in the Landbank.

If the school property is not required for Treaty settlement purposes, it may be offered for sale on the open market. Any future use of the property will be determined by the new owner, says Thompson.

She said the former school buildings have reached the end of their useful life, with their age and condition making ongoing maintenance uneconomic. Demolition work began in April 2026 and is expected to be completed by mid-September 2026.

Grün Asbestos and Demolition is LINZ's lead contractor for the project. Specialist subcontractors were also engaged to undertake service disconnections, metal recycling and timber salvage. Pattle Delamore and Partners has been engaged to monitor and validate the asbestos removal works.

"As is common with buildings of this age, significant amounts of asbestos were identified within roof spaces, cladding, soffits and subfloor areas."

She said asbestos removal works have recently been completed and final disposal weights are still being confirmed.

"LINZ is committed to reducing waste and supporting sustainable practices wherever possible. Recycling and reuse are key consid-

erations across our projects and we expect all contractors working on LINZ sites to actively identify opportunities to recover and reuse materials where it is safe and practical to do so.

"To date, Grün Asbestos and Demolition estimates it has salvaged and recycled around six tonnes of native timber, 65 tonnes of concrete and 10 tonnes of metals, equivalent to the weight of about 81 Suzuki Swifts."

She said as work is ongoing, final recycling figures are not yet available.

As part of this effort, timber that is not suitable for reuse is being shredded and repurposed for uses such as animal bedding, ground cover and biofuel.

"Recycling and reuse are key considerations across our projects and we expect all contractors working on LINZ sites to actively identify opportunities to recover and reuse materials where it is safe and practical to do so."

She said once demolition is complete, all buildings and their foundations will be removed, the site will be re-grassed, and the existing paved playing courts will remain in place.

The last school was opened in 1948, after the previous building on the site was de-

stroyed by fire.

The school closed down in 1994.

The first Rangataua School opened in a house in May 1908, with Claude Browning as teacher, with 12 students. However, It was deemed unsuitable and within a month a temporary room was specially built at the railway workshops, a committee formed, with 30 pupils enrolled.

Tenders had been called for a main school in same year at Piwari street (the location of the 1948 school, but it didn't open until 1909-10. The roll increased and by 1920 they it had four classrooms. A fire destroyed the school on 17 July 1947 – caused by painters burning off old paint

Editor's note: thanks to local historian Merrillyn George for this information and photo.

More information about the Landbank is available on the LINZ website: <https://www.linz.govt.nz/guidance/crown-property/treaty-settlements/treaty-settlements-landbank-and-maori-protection-mechanism>



Rangataua School is no more, with the last of the structure knocked over on Wednesday 27 August.



Rangataua School, built in 1948. Photo: Merrillyn George collection.

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Riders not so cold at the annual motorcycle rally



There's always one, this time two – weird contraptions. Photo Wendy Gibb.



The journey is part of the Cold Kiwi experience – this time up the River Road. Photo: Adam Stodart



Starry night at the Cold Kiwi. Photo: Randall Pavelich.



There was no wheelie competition, but some will do it anyway – even on a huge trike. Photo: Eddygo Sayan.

The usual suspects were rounded up for the 49th annual Cold Kiwi motorcycle rally on the weekend, converging on the Frew farm near Waiouru.

Riders numbered around 460, says Mike Maru from the Ruapehu Motorcycle Club, hosts of the event. “The number was not as low as it has been in the past,” says Mike, referring to earlier rallies held at a Horopito site.

“The forecast was crap, which probably kept some riders away. But we were lucky – it was windy but there wasn’t any rain.

“This site – and further around up the Desert Road –often has better weather than the other side of the mountain. It’s a bit higher but we’re in a bit of a shadow.”

They had bands both Friday and Saturday night, with ‘Epic’ from Palmerston North proving popular.

On Saturday, ‘My Dad Smokes Mix Tape’ provided the tunes, after a day

of the traditional competitions, including the hill climb, tug-o-war, burn-out and helmet dash – where the only rule is runners have to wear a helmet – many choosing to brave the chilly weather and wear not much else.

Next year’s 50th anniversary event will include extra events, says Mike.

Ruapehu Events & What’s On

SEPTEMBER 2026

Adaptive Festival More on this event at www.whakapapa.com	11-13 Sep
Tūroa Parks Rail Jam More on this event at www.pureturoa.com	12 Sep
Rail Jam – Winter Vibes More on this event at www.pureturoa.com	12 Sep
Girls Who Shred More on this event at www.pureturoa.com	TBC
Bev Hiscox Spring Flower Show The Centre, Seddon St, Raetihi. Enquiries to Di Rout 021 657 343	19 Sep
Peak to Keg www.powderhorn.co.nz	26 Sep

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

OCTOBER 2026

Retro Day Paul Stieglbauer - paul@4thames.co.nz	3 Oct
Mountain Film Festival Award winning selection of films from the NZ Mountain Film & Book Festival at the Matterhorn. Sponsored by Ruapehu Bulletin	8 Oct
Fashion Show Matterhorn - enquires to @OhakuneFashionShow.	17 Oct
Land Rover Show Taumarunui Contact: landrovershow@gmail.com or on Facebook The Land-Rover Show.	23-25 Oct

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ADS@RUAPEHUBULLETIN.CO.NZ
LINK YOUR EVENT TO EVENTFINDA FOR FREE

Eating out in the Ruapehu District

Call 06 385 8532 to list your business here or email ads@ruapehubulletin.co.nz

KINGS BAR & RESTAURANT

3 Rimu St Ohakune Junction Ph: 06 385 8648
Est in 1913, historic Kings offers an inviting menu by international chefs, a great selection of boutique wines and craft breweries including award winning Ruapehu Brewing Co beers in the fridge and on tap. See our Facebook page for what's on. Please check our open times as these will vary.

LKNZ LODGE & CAFE

1 Rata St, Ohakune Ph: 027 257 LKNZ (5569)
Open every day. Menu includes our delicious big breakfast, creamy mushrooms, homemade soups, wedges, nachos, toasties, waffles and more ... Volcanic coffee, muffins & scones, real fruit smoothies and thick shakes. Dine in or takeaway. Onsite parking. www.lknz.co.nz

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Bottom of the mountain road Ph: 06 385 8888
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THE CYPRUS TREE

79 Clyde St, Ohakune Ph: 06 385 8857
Warm fires, seasonal food, local wines and craft beers. A welcoming place for locals and visitors alike, with a playroom for the kids and a relaxed atmosphere for friends, families and celebrations. Proudly serving the Ruapehu community for more than 20 years. Open every day.

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

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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Ruatiti Road 5-month closure should end soon – RDC

Ruatiti Road residents should have access again by the end of the month after a large slip closed the road for nearly five months, disrupting residents, businesses and access.

The slip occurred about 28km from State Highway 4 thanks to rain from April’s storm.

Ruapehu District Council contractors tried a temporary repair of the slip but failed.

In June, specialist geotechnical contractors deemed the unstable rockface unsafe and recommended stabilising a large rock slab using rock bolts.

The road is used by local farmers and provides access to Mellonsfolly Ranch and the primary route to the Mountains to Sea – Ngā Ara Tūhono Mangapurua Track (Great Ride).

Whispering Hills Boutique Accommodation is cut off to visitors.

Owner and farmer Alex Roke said the odd booking had to be cancelled because of the closure.

“It’s lucky that it happened over winter. It’s been a bit annoying,” she said.

The road was prone to slips but none had lasted as long

as this one.

“It’s not a great road. The stock truck and trailer can get down there but she’s pretty narrow,” Roke said.

Roke said another resident had been letting people access their homes through his property.

She said it wasn’t ideal because the property had been muddled up, with “50 times more traffic than it would normally ever get in the middle of winter.”

Another resident, Bridgette Lacy, was closest to the slip at Ruatiti Station Cabins.

She said the road closure was “quite a nuisance”.

“But there’s people worse off than us – we have managed,” Lacy said.

Some people who liked to visit Mangapurua Track were annoyed with the time taken, she said.

Mountains to Sea Trail manager Lynley Twyman said the closure was “not ideal” but she understood the area’s dynamic geology.

“It’s the reality of where we are,” she said.

“If it’s going to happen at all, this time of the year is the only time for it to happen – if it happened in sum-

Ruapehu gas flight guest

Flights over Mt Ruapehu, taking gas samples from above the Crater Lake, are a regular activity for the scientists monitoring the volcano.

The most recent flight carried out by Earth Sciences New Zealand had an extra passenger – volcano geochemist Maarten de Moor who had not long joined ESNZ from Costa Rica.

The flight revealed an area of upwelling at Ruapehu’s central vent.

“We haven’t seen this upwelling since March 2024, with activity focused mainly around the north vent for the past two and a half years,” reports ESNZ.

The team circled back in the float plane to begin gas measurements, making several passes through the volcanic plume as it travelled north.

These flights allow them to measure CO₂, SO₂ and H₂S being released from the crater and track any changes in emission rates.

“The results? Reassuring,” says ESNZ.

Gas emissions remain low and recent tremors have subsided. So, no further escalation in activity beyond the upwelling which is the result of heat and fluids rising from the vent at the bottom of the lake.

For Maarten, being in a float plane above Ruapehu was a whole new experience – a little different from his last gas flight in



Flights over Mt Ruapehu and Mt Tongariro are a regular feature of ESNZ’s monitoring of the volcanoes.

Costa Rica.

Gas flights there are rarely carried out due to logistical and resource constraints. He was on board when one was attempted at Turrialba during a period of unrest in 2014. After flying through a turbulent, slightly ashy plume, the police Cessna pilot decided he’d had enough.

While sky high, the team surveyed Tongariro, where no visible changes or signs of unrest were observed.

Soon, Maarten will be boots on volcanic ground, with Tongariro and Ngauruhoe as his sampling sites ... and helicopter his mode of transport.

“Welcome to the team, Maarten. It’s great to have another pair of expert eyes on our volcanoes.”



Maarten de Moor – hitching a ride to find gas.



A large slip on Ruatiti Rd in the Ruapehu District was caused by April’s storm.

mer that would be a completely different conversation.”

Work to install bridges in the Mangapurua Valley was ongoing, meaning contractors were using alternative ways to get the bridges up.

Twyman said alternative access for riders and walkers was available through Kaiwhakauka Track (Whakahoro end only) and Mangapurua Landing.

The council hoped to have the road open by the end of September, following completion of rock bolting and meshing of the cliff face on 24 August.

Roadworks were underway and comple-

tion depended on weather and other factors.

Roke hoped the road would open to accommodate several bookings in October.

Ruapehu councillor Rabbit Nottage said it was wise to complete work in spring.

“It’ll be a bit drier now. There’s nothing like doing slip work in the [wet] ... everything gets all puggy, it sticks in there so it’s always nice to do that stuff in not-so-wet weather,” Nottage said.

RDC said the road would remain closed while repairs were completed it and discouraged people from attempting to pass through.

Source: Whanganui Chronicle.

The Raetihi Ohakune Garden Club present

Bev Hiscox Spring Flower Show

Saturday 19 September 2026, 9am – 1.30pm

at The Centre, Seddon St, Raetihi

Entries accepted: 3pm - 7pm Thursday 17 September

8.30am - 10.30am Friday 18 September

Childrens entries until 10am Saturday

Schedules with entry times available from:

Raetihi Info Centre and Ohakune Bookshop.

Plants for sale

Come and have a go with your flowers. Enquiries to Di Rout 021 657 343

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



Waioru hosts force generation exercise

Land Component Commander, Brigadier Jason Dyhrberg, says Exercise Hill 60 – the Army’s principal force generation activity for 2026 – is the latest in a series of exercises to progressively generate the New Zealand Army’s MIBG – a formation based on the 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment.

The regiment is a Linton-based unit that is equipped with NZ Light Armoured Vehicles (LAVs) and Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicles. With the addition of enabling capabilities and an opposition force being provided by the 2nd/1st Battalion, Exercise Hill 60 peaked at 700 personnel in the field.

“The New Zealand Army generates combat-capable land forces to make sure that we can both defend New Zealand and protect its interests. The MIBG is our largest military response option that we’re required to provide under the NZDF Defence Output Plan,” Brigadier Dyhrberg says.

He says the ongoing generation of the MIBG will ensure that, as part of a wider NZDF commitment, the New Zealand Army is prepared to credibly contribute to multi-domain combat operations with our ally, Australia.

“This will be tested in the second half of 2027 when the Army intends to deploy an MIBG of up to 900 personnel and more than 200 vehicles to Exercise Talisman Sabre. This is a major international exercise with nearly 30 nations expected to participate.

The MIBG includes a range of enabling capabilities that allows it to undertake “combined arms” operations – adding critical capabilities such as artillery, engineers, logistics, communications, health, and intelligence

ensures the MIBG’s effectiveness across a range of different activities, Brigadier Dyhrberg says.

For the personnel involved, it means testing themselves, and their training, their systems and processes – and their resilience over 16 days in the field, which for some of the infantry involved in the exercise, included a 12-kilometre night-time dismounted infiltration in temperatures well into the negatives and several inches of snow.

“Last year we committed about 250 personnel to Talisman Sabre 2025. This was a great opportunity for us to integrate a land combat capability into an Australian Army formation. We are now looking to scale that up for the next Talisman Sabre in 2027,” Brigadier Dyhrberg says.

“Exercise Hill 60 is a major step forward in the generation of the MIBG. Not only has it allowed us to practice combat operations at our largest scale, but it has enabled us to test some of the new communication nodes that have been delivered by the Network Enabled Army Programme, and to learn some valuable lessons on how we need to operate in an environment with a persistent drone threat.

“The New Zealand Army sending the MIBG to Exercise Talisman Sabre will be major undertaking for an organisation of our size. We know that we produce great soldiers that are at least as good as their international peers. Our ability to successfully integrate the MIBG into 1st (Australia) Division – a formation of about 17,000 personnel – on that exercise will further build on that strong reputation.” Brigadier Dyhrberg says.



New Zealand Army soldiers train during Exercise Hill 60 at Waioru. Photos: NZDF.

Building the health of the Ruapehu region

By Carl Bates, MP for Whanganui

The expansion of the Waimarino Health Centre will improve the delivery of healthcare in the Ruapehu district.

This commitment by the National-led Government to our Ruapehu community will enable public, primary, and community health services to be brought together in one location. Patient care will be improved by making it easier for them to access the care they need in one modern, fit-for-purpose facility.

The investment of \$4.4 million will fund the building of a 345 square metre extension and a refurbishment of the existing health centre, doubling the size of the facility.

Ruapehu Mayor Weston Kirton and Honey Winter, Chair of Ruapehu Health, have led the charge to secure funding. In announcing it, Health Minister Hon Simeon Brown and Associate Minister Hon Matt Doocey also acknowledged the advocacy of Rangitikei MP Suze Redmayne and me in ensuring it happened.

Construction is now underway, and it is hoped the new and improved centre will be up and running in the second half of 2027.

Preventing cancer was also on the agenda for Minister Brown and Minister for Women, Hon Nicola Grigg last week. The Government will make cervical screening free for all women aged 25 to 69, effective 1 March 2027.

Cervical cancer is one of the most preventable cancers, if detected early. Almost every case is caused by HPV, a common virus, which the screening test detects long before any cancer develops. Early detection contributes to a survival rate of more than 90%.

Making cervical screening free for all women builds on the National-led Government’s other commitments to screening, extending free breast screening to women up to age 74 and lowering the bowel screening age from 60 to 56. The goal is to find cancer earlier, treat it sooner, and save more lives.

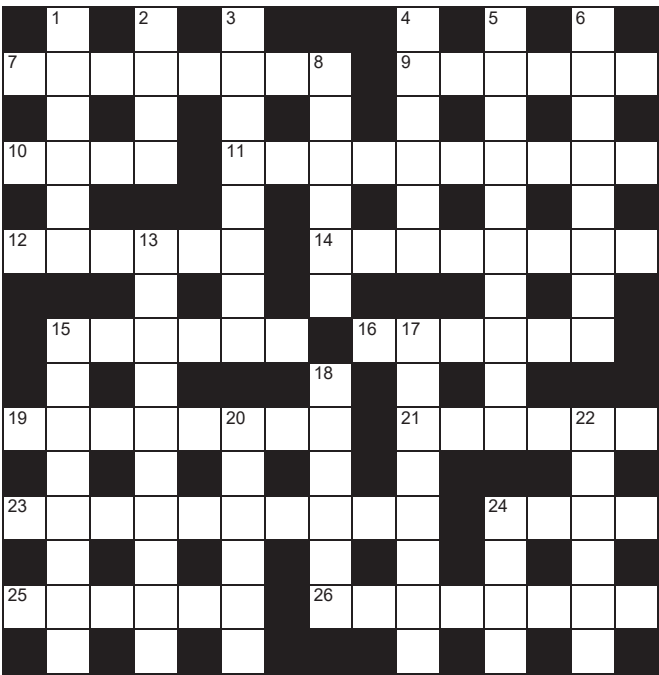
It is important to remember that screening only saves lives when patients choose to use it. So, the message to every woman in the Ruapehu district and further afield who is overdue for screening is simple – talk to your healthcare provider today.

National wants to continue our work fixing the basics in health, as we also work on building the future of New Zealand’s healthcare, with patients at the forefront, especially in rural and provincial New Zealand.

THE WEEKLY WORKOUT answers for each puzzle are included on this page 867

QUICK CROSSWORD

- Across
- 7. Anonymous (8)
 - 9. Social outcast (6)
 - 10. Fluff (4)
 - 11. Hard to believe (10)
 - 12. Material (6)
 - 14. Tin (8)
 - 15. Steep and soak (6)
 - 16. Assorted (6)
 - 19. Atom (8)
 - 21. Harem attendant (6)
 - 23. When all else has failed (4,6)
 - 24. Read quickly (4)
 - 25. Turn into (6)
 - 26. Side by side (8)



- Down
- 1. Mooring area (6)
 - 2. Let off steam (4)
 - 3. Improves, makes faultless (8)
 - 4. Body organ (6)
 - 5. Parade (10)
 - 6. Follow advice (4,4)
 - 8. Stern (6)
 - 13. Mirror image (10)
 - 15. Cut off (8)
 - 17. Opening (8)
 - 18. Recover (6)
 - 20. Lopsided (6)

- 22. Place of worship (6)
- 24. Grain store (4)

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

THE TOP 10

- 1 Ostriches, 2 Drew Barrymore, 3 Arkansas, 4 Croquet, 5 Seven, 6 Picton, 7 Romania, 8 Last, 9 Paul Dukas, 10 Open All Hours.

SUDOKU

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

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

1

MEDIUM

2

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

1

HARD

2

The Top 10

- 1. What birds were farmed in New Zealand for their feathers in the early 1900s?
- 2. Which child star in ET has hosted her own daytime talk show since 2020?
- 3. The name of four US states begin with the letter A. Which is the only one that does not end with the letter A?
- 4. If blue and black are playing red and yellow, what is the sport?
- 5. How many children did Maria look after in *The Sound of Music*?
- 6. Where in New Zealand can you find the historic ship Edwin Fox?
- 7. Transylvania is part of which country?
- 8. What is a metal form on which a shoe is made or repaired?
- 9. Who wrote *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*?
- 10. In which TV comedy series did Lynda Baron play a district nurse pursued by an amorous grocer?

CROSSWORD

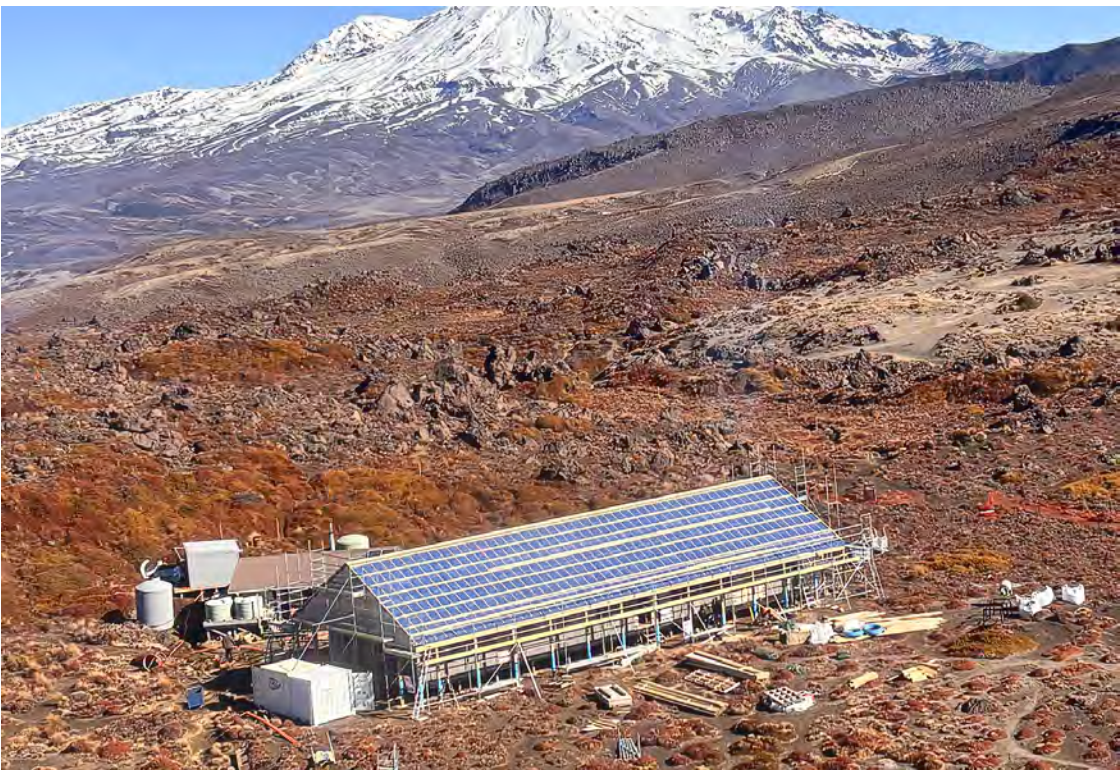
- Across: 7. Nameless, 9. Pariah, 10. Lint, 11. Faretched, 12. Fabric, 14. Canister, 15. Infuse, 16. Varied, 19. Molecule, 21. Eunuch, 23. Last resort, 24. Scan, 25. Become, 26. Parallel.
- Down: 1. Marina, 2. Vent, 3. Perfects, 4. Spleen, 5. Procession, 6. Take heed, 8. Strict, 13. Reflection, 15. Isolated, 17. Aperture, 18. Recoup, 20. Uneven, 22. Chapel, 24. Silo.

SUDOKU

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

Loop linked again as work continues on Northern Circuit

The full Tongariro Northern Circuit will operate as a loop this summer, but setbacks in construction of the new Oturere Hut have delayed the hut’s opening until mid-December. Progress has been made in repairing structural damage on Mangatepopo Track, which was impacted by fires in late 2025, and the track is on course for a summer reopening. Department of Conservation principal ranger Jenny Hayward says being able to open Mangatepopo Track in mid-December means visitors can complete a full circuit this season. “Mangatepopo Track is a critical link between Whakapapa Village and Mangatepopo Hut, and without it the Tongariro Northern Circuit hasn’t been a circuit.” Although progress has been made at the track, poor weather has prevented contractors flying materials in to Oturere, delaying construction on the much-anticipated new hut. The hut and the campsite will now open for bookings from 18 December 2026. Visitors with affected bookings will be emailed directly next week by DOC and given the opportunity to change their booking or receive a full refund. “We appreciate this is disappointing for those who had booked to stay in the brand-new hut, but unfortunately it has been unavoidable this time. “On the bright side, when you do book the hut, you’ll now be able to include it as part of the full Great Walk circuit.” The Tongariro Northern Circuit is a three or four-day hike through varied volcanic landscapes including parts of the Tongariro Alpine Crossing. Jenny says there’s also good news for the future of Mangatepopo Track. “At this stage we’re just working on replacing and repairing the fire-impacted structures, but we now have approval to do a complete overhaul of the track. “It’s going to be a complete refresh, with metalling resurfacing, new boardwalks and a strong focus on futureproofing. “People who’ve walked the Mangatepopo Track in recent years will know it has not been in a condition we’d expect for a Great Walk. We’re really looking forward to bringing it up to standard and getting even more people out naturing in Tongariro.” Bookings for Great Walks can be made through the DOC website.



The new Oturere Hut – opening delayed until December. Photo: DOC. A set of steps after the fire and after the repairs. Photos: DOC.

KiwiSaver tweaks clear the way for rural home ownership: Redmayne

MP for Rangitikei (including Ruapehu) Suze Redmayne has welcomed legislation introduced this week that will allow farm workers to use their KiwiSaver to buy their first home. The KiwiSaver (First Home or Farm) Amendment Bill, originally introduced by Redmayne as a member’s bill, has now become Government legislation, fixing two rules that have kept rural Kiwis from accessing the same first home withdrawal options as other New Zealanders.

“The current requirement that a home must be the buyer’s principal place of residence has locked thousands of hardworking rural Kiwis out of the opportunity to get on the property ladder,” Redmayne says. “This will be game changing for Kiwis in service tenancies, where they are required to live in a home provided as part of their employment, including farm workers, military personnel, police officers, and teachers.

“The Bill will also allow first home buyers to use their KiwiSaver to purchase a farm through a company, trust or partnership they majority own and control, where the farm will be their main home.” The changes recognise the reality of farm ownership in New Zealand and put rural workers on a level playing field with other first home buyers. A farm is both a business and a home, and it is common for farms to be purchased through a company, trust, or partnership rather than in an individual’s name. The current KiwiSaver rules have not kept pace with that reality. Redmayne first took up the issue after Tirrell

Winderburn, the stock manager on Redmayne’s family farm, found himself unable to access his KiwiSaver to buy his first home. “Tirrell came to us with this exact problem. He had enough in his KiwiSaver for a deposit, but because he lived and worked on the farm, he could not access it to buy his first home. “That didn’t sit right with either of us, and it quickly became clear that many rural workers were facing the same barrier. “I spoke about this issue on my local election campaign and have continued advocating for it in Parliament alongside my fellow Rural Nats.”

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BULLETIN

VOICE OF THE RUAPEHU REGION
Tuesday 9 September 1986. Volume 4 No. 15

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Brigade organises parade

1986 is Ohakune's 75th Jubilee, and this year the Ohakune Volunteer Fire Brigade have taken on the massive task of organising the parade of floats.

The official date for the jubilee parade is 21 February 1987, but months before that will be spent in preparation.

Ohakune's Chief Fire Officer, Max Martin, said that he had already received some entries, and the Brigade water tanker had already been booked for the day!

Mr Martin said that the volunteer firemen would be available to offer advice to prospective float builders as to themes for their creations.

"There is no end to ideas" he said. At the Fire Brigade's 75th in 1983, we had a "Flinstone Flivver" entry where the whole float was made of wood, right down to the wheels, and everyone was dressed in animal skins. It took six hours to construct."

The official theme for this year's jubilee however, is Ohakune Yesteryear, and it is hoped that people will make floats associated with the theme.

The parade will begin at Ohakune Junction and finish at the Ohakune-Karioi rugby grounds. It should take about three hours.

This year's format is slightly different to that of previous years as there are plans to organise fun events after the parade, with such items as wood-chopping, a hangi or barbeque, and even the possibility of a ferris wheel.

Volunteer fireman, Ben Goddard said that the aim this year was to create a fun day with a gala atmosphere.

There has been no competitive wood-chopping in the Waimarino since around 1950, and they are confident that with the help of some big name personalities, it will be a major drawcard.

The New Zealand Navy Band has been booked already.

Floats can be entered in three sections, trade, open and the main yesteryear theme, and a separate children's section. The Brigade is confident that they will receive a large number of entrants.

Entry forms will be sent to all organisations in the Waimarino, but in case a keen group does not receive one, a copy can be obtained from secretary, Kevin Munn.

Organisations are asked to get in behind the Jubilee float parade and enter, or come up with some ideas on stalls or events for the function after the parade.

New principal welcomed



Ohakune School welcomed its new principal, Ross Richdale from Hawera, yesterday morning.

Mr Richdale, accompanied by past principal Bill Taylor, and local kaumatua Matthew Mareikura and Lei Mareikura, was welcomed by an

action song performed by the whole school.

The guests watched two more numbers by the school and then Matthew and Lei Mareikura replied.

Bill Taylor and teachers Jerry Bidwell and Gordon Pepere spoke in welcome.

Last century Waimarino land sales doubted

The Waimarino block, a vast area of land stretching from Mt Ruapehu to the Wanganui River, may never have been legally sold to the crown.

Members of the Wanganui River Maori tribes believe that if this were the case then the descendants of legitimate owners last century would have a claim to the land now.

Hikaia Amohia of Tau-marunui, who is chairman of the Wanganui River Reserves Trust, said that if the claim turned out to be correct then the Maori people must have a major part in management of the proposed Wanganui River national park.

He said the people would be happy for the land to be used as a park for recreation but they wanted control over it. They didn't want it gazetted as a national park in Wellington.

The claim is based on the belief that a 19th century decision of the Maori Land Court was faulty. However, it seems that a great deal more research needs to be done to establish the legality of the claim, which is at present a long way from final proof.

The director of parks and reserves for the Department of Lands and Survey, Dave McKerchar, said he believed there was sufficient documentation to verify the crown purchase and gift of the land.

"However, we are certainly prepared to look at it if they have a case, our door is always open," he said.

Dalgety Crown branches

The Australian group Elders Pastoral has bought the 16 Dalgety Crown branches in the lower North Island left out of the recent merger with Wrightson NMA.

The deal includes the Raetihi and Ohakune branches, controlled from Wanganui.

The Elders takeover means Wrightson will face a big competitor in the lower North Island leading to a competitive stock and station business.

Staff employed at the branches still do not know their future. It is not clear whether Elders will employ all present staff or whether they will reduce branches.

The takeover takes effect from 26 September.

Council candidate forgotten

In our story last week on nominations for local councils a name was inadvertently missed from the list.

We apologise to Colin Turner who has been nominated for election to Ohakune Borough Council.

Deliveries delayed

Readers will have noticed that their *Bulletin* has been delivered a little late over the past three weeks.

This has resulted from problems beyond our control in getting the paper to and from our printers at Te Awamutu.

We hope we have now solved the problem so that in future the *Bulletin* will be delivered to you on time on Tuesday afternoons.

Vege depot land sold

A hotel and tavern complex may be built on the Turners and Growers vegetable collection depot site on the corner of Thames Street and Mangawhero Terrace at Ohakune Junction.

The site was recently sold at auction for \$120,000 by Turners and Growers who plan to move their operation to a new site in Old Station Road by February next year.

The purchasers plan to

develop the prominent site, which is on a corner leading to the Turoa Skifields gateway, as tourist accommodation.

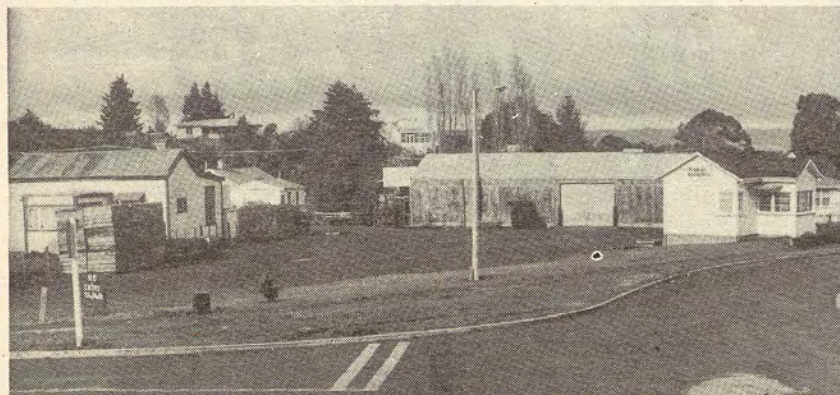
A spokesman for the developers, Paul Scarf, said that a three or four-year progressive development was planned. There would be a hotel-type accommodation tower block at the rear with a tavern complex at the front.

"However drawings have only just begun so nothing is settled yet," he said.

Mr Scarf said the developers included two Australians and two Aucklanders who like the area and were interested in helping to develop it.

Robert Lovatt, spokesman for Turners and Growers, said the reason for the move was the restricted space on the old site.

"We don't have enough room on the old site and will be building bigger premises with a large store in Old Station Road, so we can provide a better service to growers," he said.



Turners and Growers depot at Ohakune Junction, sold to developers.

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Fishing licence cards will feature this image, taken by Radek Baus. His photo of Lucie with her catch was voted the overall winner of ReWild Snap & Share: The Fish & Game Licence Photo Competition.

Fishing licences are on sale as anticipation builds for the upcoming season – and this year anglers have a new resource to help them make the most of it.

“Today is an exciting day in the diary for keen anglers,” said Fish & Game New Zealand chief executive Corina Jordan.

“The season opens on 1 October, so we’re encouraging anglers to grab their licence early and get on with sorting their gear, lining up trips with mates and digging into our new resources.”

Fish & Game has launched a new Fishing Knowledge Hub, a one-stop online resource for anyone wanting to get into freshwater fishing or brush up on their skills.

“Whether you are picking up a rod for the first time or you have fished our rivers and lakes for years, the Hub has something for everyone,” Jordan said.

“It brings together practical, easy-to-follow guides on everything from licence requirements and where to fish, through to reading the water, choosing gear, and preparing a catch for the table, with a growing library of how-to

videos alongside them.”

New Zealand’s freshwater fishing is outstanding value for the challenge and excitement on offer.

“New Zealand is rated among the best trout fishing destinations anywhere in the world,” Jordan said.

“Fishing is great for body and mind. It is hard to dwell on your worries when your attention is on a trout at the end of the line. It is also a great way to spend time with whanau and friends, get some wild kai for the table, teach kids new skills, and pass on both a love of the outdoors and independence.”

Jordan is encouraging more women to give fishing a go.

“For me, it is liberating. It is time to yourself, and you can come home with something delicious and healthy for dinner.”

The 2026-27 season licences are available online and from accredited sports shops and other outlets. Head to fishandgame.org.nz to buy a licence and click the link to explore the Fishing Knowledge Hub.

Calling artists for Hidden Corners

Taumarunui Arts Centre are calling for entries to their Hidden Corners Exhibition this Labour Weekend. Artists will be in with a chance to win a \$450 People’s Choice Prize.

The Exhibition will run from Friday to Monday 23-26 October 10am–4pm, with an Opening Night on Thursday 22 October at 5.30pm, to which all are welcome.

“We are also inviting market stall holders to join us, on the deck and lawn of the Art Centre on Saturday 24 October,” says Kathleen Lennie from the Centre. Contact Myra on 021-169-2052 or r.c.artcentre@gmail.com.

The theme of the Art Exhibition is ‘Hidden Corners’.

“Please use your imagination and take this as literally or figuratively as you like,” invites Kathleen.

“Create in any medium or artform that inspires you.”

Acceptance is at the discretion of the committee.

Works can be dropped off at the Centre 10-4 on Tuesday 20 or Wednesday 21 October.

“So don’t hide in a corner! Come along to Taumarunui Art Centre to see the art, join us for refreshments at the opening night, or browse the stalls on Saturday.”



Market stalls will be a feature of the Labour Weekend Taumarunui art show. Photo supplied.

From a small town to the USA - a dream made possible

A small-town boy with a big dream has returned home from an unforgettable journey to the United States and it is only possible because a community believed in him, says his mum.

After months of fundraising, hard work and preparation, Manaaki Bell-Morehu had the opportunity to travel to Las Vegas and play basketball in the USA alongside some of the country’s most talented young athletes.

“To step onto international courts, compete against teams from across the world and experience basketball at that level was an opportunity he will never forget,” says his mother, Miriama Lucas.

She says behind every young athlete who gets the chance to chase a dream is a community that helps make it possible.

“We would like to extend our heartfelt ngā mihi nui to every individual, whānau, business and organisation who supported Manaaki along the way.

“A very special thank you goes to Under Construction, Eves Construction and Ruapehu Lions Club, for their generous support and belief in Manaaki and his journey.

“We are also incredibly grateful to The Gym Ohakune, New World Ohakune, HollyHuriana Photography and Jones Bros Ltd for getting behind him and helping make this opportunity a reality.

“To all our sponsors, supporters, those who donated, bought raffle tickets, shared fundraising posts, offered encouragement or simply followed his journey thank you.

“Your support meant so much more than helping fund a trip. You helped give a young person the opportunity to see what might be possible beyond the place he calls home.”

She says the USA trip has given Manaaki memories that will stay with him for years to come, but perhaps even more importantly, it has shown him that the size of your hometown does not have to determine the size of your dreams.

Manaaki has the opportunity to travel again in December 2027, continuing to develop his basketball and represent New Zealand internationally.

“With that opportunity comes another significant financial commitment and we will once again be looking for sponsorship and community support to help make the next chapter possible.

“We hope local businesses and members of our wider community might consider coming alongside him once again.”

Supporters can contact Miriama Lucas on mjay4232@gmail.com.



Manaaki Bell-Morehu – home from unforgettable USA basketball experience. Digitally altered photo supplied.

Students rethink waste with Resource Recovery Centre and Enviroschools

Pupils from Turaki School and Ōwhango School have put their creativity and problem-solving skills to the test during an Enviroschools waste and resource day at the Taumarunui Resource Recovery Centre.

Ruapehu District Council supports the Enviroschools programme, which empowers young people to explore environmental sustainability and take action within their schools and wider communities.

The visit gave the pupils an opportunity to learn about waste, recycling, reuse and resource recovery through a series of fun, practical challenges.

Taumarunui Resource Recovery Centre manager Emily Jasmine said the pupils were asked to turn materials that might otherwise be considered waste into useful resources.

"Turaki School pupils were challenged to find recovered and recycled materials to build a robot, while the Ōwhango School pupils searched for reusable resources for their school's sensory and biodiversity garden," she said.

"While completing their challenges, the pupils were also able to see how the Resource Recovery Centre operates and the important role it plays in diverting material from landfill.

"The pupils get to explore what is and is not waste, see where different materials go and discover what can be recovered for reuse or recycling.

"In doing so they learn about the waste hierarchy and get to consider how people, resources, and the environment are all interconnected," she said.

Enviroschools co-ordinator Rochelle Faire said visiting the Resource Recovery Centre provided the students with



It was 'thumbs-up' from the students from Ōwhango School for their Enviroschools waste and resource day at the Taumarunui Resource Recovery Centre.

a unique learning experience that could not be replicated in the classroom.

"At the end of the day, they can reflect on the resources they rescued and better understand why reuse is a much better outcome for both people and the

environment."

The day demonstrated how materials commonly regarded as waste can be given a second life through creativity, practical thinking and a greater understanding of their value.

Ohakune squash

Results from Thursday's Ohakune Squash Club's interbusiness: in pool one Eagle beat Deer 13-6, Baboon beat Watlings 15-3, Potty Mouths beat Rabbit 14-3 and Crab got 8 points for the bye. In pool two Fatz Oysters beat Alpaca 14-5, Peacock beat Orange Choc Chip 14-4, Frog beat Horse 16-3 and Goat got 8 points for the bye. In pool three Octopus beat Ibex 11-8, Lion beat Jaguar 17-1, Narwhal beat Kiwi 15-4 and Moose got 8 points for the bye. Points after five weeks are: pool one, Eagle 60, Deer 51, Baboon 50, Crab 44, Potty Mouths 42, Rabbit 37, Watlings 32; Pool two, Goat 68, Fatz Oysters 64, Frog 56, Alpaca 47, Peacock 38, Horse 23, Orange Choc Chip 23; Pool three, Narwhal take over the lead on 57, Lion 54, Ibex 51, Kiwi 50, Octopus 46, Moose 43, Jaguar 22.

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

On Sunday over 30 junior players from around the central district came to Ohakune to take part in the first round of the Tecnifibre junior series with 7 players competing in their first ever tournament. One notable visitor was Joel Simpson who played his first ever tournament in Ohakune and now 23 years later took his 3 children from Ashhurst to participate in their first tournament, it is always great to see these full circle moments and past members returning to the club and still loving the game. Finals results: division one Hana Harding beat Ashton Smith, division two Taylor Sith (Turangi) beat Sam Barlow, division three Jesse Goldsworthy (Wanganui) beat Elise Drinkwater, division four Taylyn Leahy beat Eva Hovelle, division five Chase Haitana beat Marley Evans, division six Abbie Drayton beat Tiana Leahy, division seven Jimmy Brown (Taihape) beat Reef Thompson, division eight Nathan Simpson (Ashhurst) beat Hendrix Mickleson, division nine Elise Simpson (Ashhurst) beat Luca Mickleson.



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Last roll call at Rangataua

Past pupils and teachers spanning 86 years of Rangataua School days gathered on Friday to see the school finally closed down.

As well as young ones from this and recent years, the ex-pupils gathered included Mary Evans, 98, who attended the school on the day it opened. She was joined by Ruby Smith, 85, who attended the school in 1914.

Also present were friends of the school including two of the builders of the present block, built in 1947-48.

Mrs Evans, Mrs Smith and Mavis Reynolds (nee Snowball) reminisced about the old days of Rangataua.

Mrs Evans said she started school at Raetihi, later moving to 'the city' — Rangataua.

The three remembered the days when Rangataua had a population of over 2000 people, and had half a dozen boarding houses, bakers, grocers, butchers, a town hall, picture theatres and billiard halls. Ten sawmills surrounded the town.

Mrs Evans now lives in Raetihi and Mrs Smith back in Rangataua.

"I scouted round the country, then came back home," said Mrs Smith.

Pat Gordon (nee Remus) said Rangataua had been a 'neat school' — friendly and like a happy family.

"There were no hyperactive kids, everybody knew everyone else."



Turn to Page 14 Mavis Reynolds, Mary Evans and Ruby Smith study old Rangataua School photos at the school's last day, Friday 26 August.

BULLETIN REPORTS: The Ruapehu Bulletin reported on the last day of school at Rangataua — on Friday 26 August 1994, sharing memories of earlier days of the school's life.



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100 years' work for Ohakune celebrated

Two men who have been working on numerous projects to make Ohakune a better place – as well as letting potential visitors know all about their place – were honoured at an evening hosted at the Powderhorn's Matterhorn Restaurant on Monday last week.

They are Dave Scott and Mike Wiggins who have been members of the Ohakune Community Charitable Trust and its predecessor organisations.

Dave started on projects – with the then Jaycees Club soon after arriving in Ohakune in 1964, while Mike arrived in 1979. That makes a combined 109 years of community service.

Current OCCT chair Christine Hickman said that Dave has recently retired from OCCT as well as the Carrot Park Trust, while Mike has recently threatened to retire but is still keen to get a few things done before he does.

She told the gathering that, having only lived in Ohakune for six years of the past six decades, she enlisted ChatGPT to do a complete review of the archives of the *Ruapehu Bulletin*.

"Unsurprisingly their names appeared very frequently in the paper and almost always, attached to something that somebody was trying to get done."

Dave arrived to manage the local Ford dealership. When Mike arrived in 1979, he opened the Junction Ski Shop.

"Back then Ohakune was a very different town. When Tūroa opened in 1978, there were just two restaurants, one motel and one ski shop at the bottom of the Mountain Road. Ohakune was fundamentally a market gardening, forestry and service town.

"But there was a group of local people who could see possibilities and Dave and Mike were two of them. They were part of a generation that shared the same philosophy: if someone said something couldn't be done, they tended to regard that as an invitation to have a go."

She said Dave's contribution has always been about turning ideas into projects.

His time in the Jaycees played a big part in that. Dave learned how to take an idea, organise people around it, promote it and turn it into something real.

"One of the first great examples was Top Carrot 71 – the idea to make Ohakune famous as Carrot Country.

"Most people might have put up a sign and left it at that."

Christine said Dave and friends took carrots to Wellington and Auckland, handing them out in the streets.

"They generated national publicity. The project won the New Zealand Jaycees' best PR project of 1971."

Dave served nine years as an Ohakune Borough Councillor.

"The list of things he and others tackled over that time is remarkable.

"Dave and his fellow councillors fought through restrictions around Tūroa and worked to get the concessions needed for the ski field."

Then came Mainstreet – four years of work, 343 signed submissions, which Dave and Bob Norling presented to Council along with a box of Johnny Nation's eclairs.

The Mainstreet town revitalisation project ultimately represented around \$1.5 million of investment.

"As we walk along it today it's good to be reminded about the people that worked to make it happen."

Ultimately, Dave received the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2001 for services to the community.

How do we get people here?

While Dave tended to look at Ohakune and think "what can we build?" Mike looked at it and thought: "How do we get people here?"

Mike arrived in 1979 and started the Junction Ski Shop.

"From the beginning he understood the power of promotion," says Christine, saying Mike understood that if people came to Ohakune, everyone benefited."

In a bad snow year, Mike would not accept defeat and organised a "snow dance" at the Ohakune Hotel in Clyde Street.

The next morning? Ohakune and the mountain were covered in snow. Whether the dance actually caused the snow is open to debate.

"But Mike's commitment to promotion of our town is not."

He created the Junction Snow Festival, held over Queen's Birthday weekend as the opening of the ski season. It

Turn to Page 11 for

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

THREE-BEDROOM HOUSE unfurnished, with whiteware, wood burner with wetback. Fully-fenced in quiet Ohakune street. References essential. Contact: 021-151-7462.

DEATH NOTICES

GORDON HALL: We are sad to announce the passing of on Gordon Tuesday 1 September 2026. Gordon lost his battle with cancer and passed away peacefully at Palmerston North Hospital. His laughter and generosity, his jokes and anecdotes were always plentiful. He will be dearly missed by his wife Liz and son Ronan, as well as friends and family both here in New Zealand and the UK.

FOR SALE

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

WATER TROUGHS, cattle or sheep. Different sizes. Delivered price quoted. Ph 0800-487-633.

PUBLIC NOTICES



Ruapehu Mayor Weston Kirton

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



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

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

BUSINESS NOTICES

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Need to get to a health appointment in Whanganui or Palmerston North?



Book on 0800 266 547

Bookings must be made 24 hours in advance.
Contact us between Monday to Friday 8.30am and 3.00pm

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

Section 101, Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012

Waimarino Golf Club Inc have made an application to the District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council for the **Renewal of a Club Licence** in respect of the premises situated at **33 Golf Course Road, Ohakune** known as **Waimarino Golf Club**. The general nature of the business to be conducted under the licence is that of a **Sports Club**. The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is intended to be sold under the licence are:

Monday – Sunday: 10.00am – 11.00pm.

The application may be inspected during ordinary office hours at the office of the Ruapehu District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council, 59-63 Huia Street, Taumarunui.

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

No objections to the renewal of a licence may be made in relation to a matter other than a matter specified in section 131 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012. This is the only publication of this notice.

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 second publication of this notice. The first notice was published on 2 September 2026.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Rangataua Hall Committee AGM

Thursday 21 September, 6.30pm
at the Rangataua Hall

All welcome.



WHANGANUI COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

WAIMARINO, RANGITIKEI, WHANGANUI

Whanganui Community Foundation Annual Public Meeting 2026

Thursday 24 September 2026 at 10am
Te Matapihi - Bulls Community Centre, Bulls

Members of the public are welcome to attend

Light refreshments provided.

Please RSVP by Friday, 17 September to info@whanganuicommunityfoundation.org.nz



NGĀPORO WAIMARINO FOREST TRUST

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

Election of Three Trustees at the 2026 Owners' Annual General Meeting

Oriwia HOHAIA-HALL	32	Votes
Hiria HANCY	24	Votes
Phillip REWETI	23	Votes
Edward CLARK	20	Votes
Marilyn DAVIS	20	Votes

The trustees elected to the Board for a six-year term due to the owners' voting are, Oriwia Hohaia-Hall, Hiria Hancy and Phillip Reweti.

Robert Spicer, Secretary

PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE FOR PEAK 2 POWDERKEG 2026

Pursuant to Section 342 and Schedule 10 of the Local Govt. Act 1974, notice is hereby given that the Ruapehu District Council, for the purpose of holding the **PEAK 2 POWDERKEG 2026** event proposes to close the following roads:

Saturday 26th September 2026

Ohakune Mountain Road, 02:00PM to 07:00PM:

Full closure from the Tūroa Ski Area upper carpark to the intersection with Mangawhero Terrace.

Thames Street, 02:00PM to 07:00PM:

Full Closure from the intersection with Mangawhero Terrace to the intersection with Rimu Street.

During the Thames Street closure, traffic will be detoured via Tyne Street and Rimu Street.

The above proposed road closure is provisional pending regulatory approval of the Traffic Management Plan. Powderhorn Leisure Ltd does not anticipate any changes.

Any person objecting to the proposal is called upon to lodge notice of their objection and the grounds thereof in writing by 5pm Wednesday 16 September 2026. Objections can be delivered in person to the office of Ruapehu District Council, or emailed to info@ruapehudc.govt.nz

100 years' work for Ohakune celebrated

From Page 10

years until Mardi Gras eventually took over.

He was involved in TASCI, which helped generations of local children learn to ski.

Mike also served as an Ohakune councillor and chaired the business network as part of Ohakune 2000 and now OCCT. In the recent Tūroa process, the Ohakune Business Network co-ordinated the views of the town, with 81 local businesses supporting its position.

Through TCB and with his son Ben he has continued building a year-round business around mountain biking and the wider visitor attractions of the district.

Over 40 years the message hasn't changed: promote Ohakune, work together, make the most of what we've got.

"One of the things that becomes very clear when you look back through the old *Ruapehu Bulletins* is that Dave and Mike were part of something bigger. There were many others – Bob Norling, Bruce Thompson, Alan Whale, Paul Scarf and many more," says Christine.

In the mid-1990s, Ruapehu was erupting. Tourism was under pressure. The future was uncertain.

"So a group of locals started meeting after work. They looked at Ohakune and asked: what have we got? The answer was: We've got an extraordinary recreation environment."

That thinking became Ohakune 2000. And from that came projects that have fundamentally changed how people experience this place: the Ohakune Old Coach Road being one of them.

"Four years of work, negotiation and persistence and eventually the community got it done."

So what have Dave and Mike and others actually left?

"We could count the years. Dave since 1964. Mike since 1979. We could count the projects. We could count the money raised. And we could also the number of people whose lives have been impacted and how the wider region has benefited by what these people and their cohort have contributed."

She said Dave and Mike have been part of a culture of people who believed that a small town could do big things.

"And with the current OCCT team we are working to carry on that tradition. All of us have inherited the town that this generation helped create."

"Thank you for the ideas, the energy, the persistence and for your part in making Ohakune a better place."

Both Mike and Dave spoke in answer, confirming that they're both not done yet, despite "retiring". Mike talked about projects he's still contributing to, and Dave also mentioned current projects including the swimming baths refurbishment – including offering to sell sponsorship options.



Dave Scott, front left, and Mike Wiggins, front right, were honoured by current OCCT trustees and members, from left, Richard Milne, Kate Jones, Christine Hickman, Jude Chevin and Daniel Schlumpf. Photo: Robert Milne.

Last roll call at Rangataua

Phillip Murdie said they were all honest, upright Christian children who never did anything wrong.

"I was in your class!" countered another ex-pupil.

Hank Reynolds later said most of the pupils were an unruly lot. He remembered Darby Black, on horse-back, jumping the picket fence, with the head master Mr Rogers clearing it as well – on foot!

He said he hated school but still wanted to come along and see the last day.

Waimarino Golf

Some mixed results in the days play on Sunday. Best score of the day went to Bryce Henry with a nett 68 he won the junior meat pack. Second was Billy McDonnell and third John Purcell.

Grant Fountain and Gary Imhoff on 69 were first equal in the seniors, Dana Blackburn second on 72 and third equal were Don Windle and Carol Leary.

Sponsor for the day was BNZ Raetihi.

Squash

Ladies results 23 August Ohakune v Taihape 1 Ohakune names first: Robyn Pratt bt Brenda Thomas 9/5, 9/5, 9/1; Kath Craig bt Betty Steedman 9/3, 9/4, 9/2; Trinnette Mott bt Sandra Wheeler 10/8, 9/5, 9/5; Eileen Clarke lost to Trudi Martin 9/6, 9/1, 1/9, 9/6; Erin Workman lost to Kathleen Munro 9/0, 5/9, 3/9, 9/4, 9/5. A win to Ohakune 3/2.

Wamarino vs Turangi (individual scores not available)

Another recalled having her mouth washed out with soapy water for swearing at her sister.

"It didn't work – I still swear," she said.

They remembered Dr Elizabeth Gunn, the visiting health worker, who terrorised all. Half the school would disappear for 3-4 days when it was heard she was coming.

"She would have you stand to attention, even if you felt you would die. And by the time she was finished with you, you wished you had died," said Mr Murdie.

George Drayton, representative of a family with strong links to the school (the family having donated the land for the Mangateitei Road swimming pool), learnt something new at the closing day. Looking through old photos he found a class photo with his father in. He said he had not known that his father had attended the school.

Builder Norm Hubbard recounted his days as an apprentice working for the education department.

He said as they travelled around the country building schools, they usually slept in school out-buildings such as woodsheds and play houses, usually adding a few sheets of corrugated iron as a door.

The Rangataua job was unusual in that they didn't have to do their own cooking as they had an on-the-job cook. However they found out the cook was sending some of their rations (such things as tea, sugar and butter were still



ATTENDANCE RECORDED: Past pupils of Rangataua School who were present at the last day of school for Rangataua.

rationed after the war) home to his family.

"He was a good cook, and good cooks were precious, so we just put up with it," said Mr Hubbard.

He also spoke of a pay rise received during the time of the job. As a good apprentice he was to receive an extra five shillings a week. Working six 12-hour

days a week, this worked out at less than one cent extra per hour.

He said the building was constructed of the best materials including heart rimu, (and the best workmanship) and that it would be a pity to see the building unused.

Board of Trustees chairperson Jane Zweibruck made a short speech at the

closing, saying the decision by the board to close the school was not an easy one.

"Personally it is a sad day for me. I would have liked to have seen my son attend the school, but it is not to be."

She and last principal Shirley Thompson told those gathered what was to happen to the memorabilia and assets of the school.

Mrs Zweibruck said assets of the school had gone

to Ohakune to be of benefit to the Rangataua children who now attend that school.

Many of the archives will now be handed to the Ruapehu District Council for safe-keeping. Some of the sports cups were presented to past recipients.

Other articles are to go to the Main Trunk Rail Ohakune museum, including the school bell which is to be inscribed with 'Rangataua', and the roll of hon-

our.

The *Bulletin* understands the Ministry of Education will now look into titles for the property and that it may be put up for tender. The property, which includes the school house, built in 1908, and six acres, has a government valuation of \$200,000.

And the school goat has a permanent home at Pokaka at Mrs Thompson's property.

Young designers honoured at TOI awards

Three entries to the TOI wearable arts competition from Ohakune Primary School came home with awards after the June event.

The event is a nationwide wearable art showcase and competition for pupils in Years 1-13, run in collaboration with World of Wearable Art (WOW).

The three entries included a “squishy” design, a Chinese dragon and a creation based on the forest environment.

The awards were: Excellent Garment Construction for the Chinese Dancing Dragon and So Squishy, and Innovative Use of Materials (junior) to Miss Eva Green.

Robyn Wilson, the teacher overseeing the pupils through

their designs and construction, said some of the creations will exhibit at the Waimarino Art Awards and the Ohakune Winter Fashion Show, walking the catwalk at the Fashion Show in October.

So Squishy, by Hetty Stuckey, says she loves squishy toys.

“It’s my dream to be covered in soft toys. The shoes will be like elf shoes. She will have fluffy socks too. The dress will be covered with soft toys, like teddy bears. She will also have teddy bear earrings.”

Chinese Dancing Dragon is by Flynn Macleod, Alexander Young, Taylor Williamson and Alexander (Turtle)

Kumeroa-Ruri. They describe their creation:

“The dragon lived in an old mountain in a cave, suddenly an earthquake and meteor hit the cave and the dragon awoke. It was furious! It had flaming red and gold scales with an aura around it. It’s gold and black whiskers went up like an angry cat. Because he was so angry he picked a fight with another dragon for Cheese Valley.”

Miss Eva Green is by Alexis Fredricksen, who describes her creation:

“Introducing Miss Eva Green, designed out of natural materials found in the forests of New Zealand. Imagine being lost in a forest with nothing to wear except what’s immediately available to you, she may be lost in the forest but always dresses to impress, from fashion shows to hunting, Miss Green has it covered or camouflaged.”

Other entries were: Heart of the Earth by Oscar Moody – showing “how powerful and important the Earth’s core is”; and TIE-d up! By Harper Gunnell: “turning something that usually represents men in business into something that celebrates women working hard too. When all the ties come together, they show that women can do any job they dream about. This dress tells a story about confidence, inclusiveness, and how the future can include girls like me!”



TOP PHOTO: So Squishy – a winning design at Toi in Palmerston North. **Photos:** Toi Showquest. **MIDDLE PHOTO:** Chinese Dancing Dragon. **BOTTOM PHOTO:** Miss Eva Green.

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