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Ruapehu Pamui

16 September 2026
Issue No 2123

Te Wīkī o te Reo Māori 2026 - Te Reo Towns



**\$400k
to build
Horopito
hub
P3**



**Aussie
Jets
buzz
Waiouru
P5**



**Ruapehu
boosts
Australian
tourism
P6**



**Best
blooms
on
show
P11**

Kua mana ai e Ngāti Rangi me NZDF te whaetanga mo te whare whenua.

Ngāti Rangi and NZDF sign landmark housing agreement

By Moana Ellis

A new land and housing deal between the New Zealand Defence Force and central North Island iwi Ngāti Rangi will see 50 homes built for military families at Waiouru.

The land-and-leasing agreement, signed at Waiouru on Wednesday, will give the iwi ownership of land and new housing at Waiouru Military Camp.

Fulfilling commitments made under the 2019 Ngāti Rangi Treaty settlement, the agreement provides for the homes and land they are built on to be sold to Ngāti Rangi and leased back to the Defence Force under a long-term arrangement.

The deal addresses historical grievances associated with Defence (NZDF) land, including damage to Te Onetapu, a site sacred to Ngāti Rangi.

Te Tōtarahoe o Paerangi chair Tomairangi Mareikura said the arrangement provided a commercial opportunity for the iwi while also bringing better housing for NZDF personnel and their families.

The state of military housing has been criticised in recent years, with personnel living in damp, cold and mouldy homes.

Mareikura said reconnecting the iwi to the whenua was equally important, with the iwi's relationship with the land pre-dating NZDF's presence and remaining central to its identity.

Back on their land

"What's important for us as Ngāti Rangi is the ability to put ourselves back here at place.

"We have been alienated from this whenua since the early 1900s when the land was taken, and then more land was taken again in the 1930s when the military base was formally established.

"We now can stand with our feet on the ground and say it is ours again."

Chief of Army, Major General Rose King, said the arrangement honours a treaty settlement commitment made by the Crown and the NZDF to Ngāti Rangi, and follows "years of discussion, negotiation, and goodwill by many people on all sides".

"It demonstrates that honouring Tiriti commitments is not separate from advancing national interests. It is part of advancing national interests."



Chief of Army, Major General Rose King, and Ngāti Rangi leader Tomairangi Mareikura sign an agreement for the construction of 50 homes for military personnel at Waiouru Military Camp. Looking on are, from left, Bridget Marks, Chief Financial Officer NZDF, Kemp Dryden and Elijah Pue. Photo: NZDF.

Turn to Page 2

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Ngāti Rangi takes stake in Army land under new 50-home deal

From Page 1

The deal would provide modern housing at the army camp to improve personnel wellbeing, retention and operational effectiveness, King said.

“We expect our people to be pulled away at short notice. We go away for long times. So that support that we provide to our families is really important, and this is going to go a huge way toward that.

“It’s a really special day. It’s taken a number of years for us to get here. I’m really proud to be part of that.”

King said the whenua underlying the NZDF training area on the central plateau belonged to Ngāti Rangi, Mōkai Pātea and Tūwharetoa.

“That’s not lost on me, but as the Defence Force we have a role to do, and without looking after our whānau, our people, they won’t be able to serve.

Iwi wins, Army wins

“This kaupapa is fundamental to not only giving our people somewhere warm, somewhere healthy to live and enable their families to grow, but also to enable Ngāti Rangi to grow. It’s a partnership – a win-win proposition.

“When we work together, we’re going to be stronger than the individual parts.”

Waiouru has been an important Army

training base since it was established in the 1930s.

Defence Minister Paul Goldsmith said at the signing that high-quality housing for the Defence Force was essential.

“Our government is committed to fixing the basics, and that means ensuring our sailors, soldiers and aviators and their families have access to warm, safe, dry homes, for modern living.

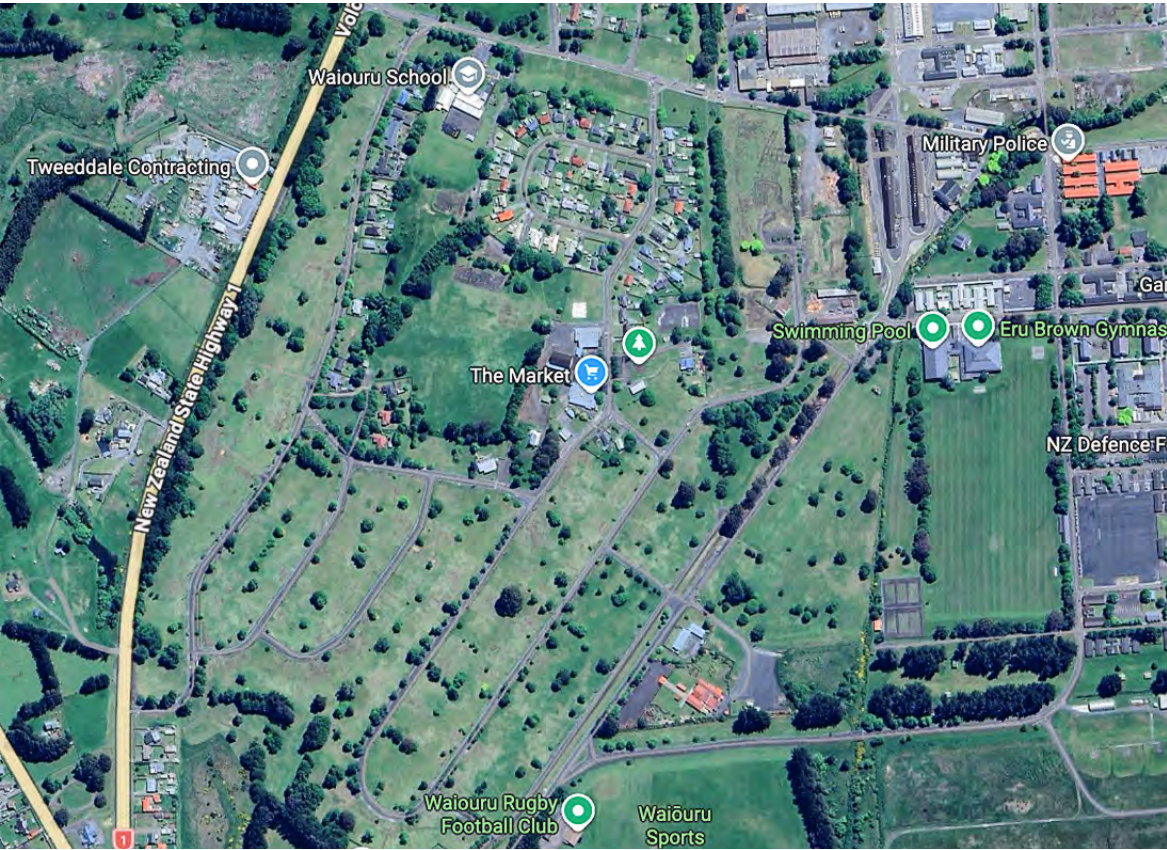
“This agreement will strengthen the meaningful partnership NZDF has with Ngāti Rangi and respects the important role the iwi plays in the future of the land.”

Goldsmith said the homes would be fully insulated, energy efficient and built to modern standards.

Ngāti Rangi said the development will be called Ururangi Kāinga (Ururangi Estate). It is expected to be completed by mid-2028.

The deal is part of the Government’s Homes for Families programme, which includes new homes at military camps and bases in Devonport, Wellington, Whenuapai, Christchurch and Manawātū.

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



New houses will be built in Waiouru in the area alongside the highway, for Army personnel after a deal was signed between NZDF and local iwi Ngāti Rangi. This is an area of land, (left of map) that was previously occupied with old Army houses. The area will be known as Ururangi Kāinga.

FMC lodges neutral submission on WPI waste discharge

Federated Mountain Clubs has changed its position on the resource consent application from Winstone Pulp International Limited to enable to discharge of treated mill wastewater, stormwater and a foam inhibitor to the Whangaehu River.

In December, FMC’s opposition was due to concerns about effects on recreation and the river environment.

Since then, the application has been significantly revised. Throughout the process, FMC had the opportunity to engage directly with the applicant and its consultant, review the amended proposal, and seek independent technical advice before reaching its position.

The revised application reduces the discharge to less

than 20% of the original volume, adds wet-land treatment, and was publicly notified even though it didn’t have to be.

“After reviewing the revised proposal, we’ve concluded the effects on whitewater recreation are now likely to be negligible. As a result, FMC has lodged a neutral submission,” writes FMC.

“Our preference will always be for rivers to run from source to sea without industrial discharges. But good advocacy also means recognising when concerns have been listened to, proposals have been significantly

improved, and better outcomes have been achieved.

“We appreciate the open and constructive engagement from Winstone Pulp, Babbage Consultants and Horizons Regional Council throughout this process. This is the kind of consenting process we’d like to see more often—one that is transparent, evidence-based and leads to better outcomes for both our environment and our outdoor community.”

The application is due to be considered in October.

Ruapehu Events & What’s On

SEPTEMBER 2026

Girls Who Shred

TBC

More on this event at www.pureturoa.com

Bev Hiscox Spring Flower Show

19 Sep

The Centre, Seddon St, Raetihi. Enquiries to Di Rout 021 657 343

Peak to Powderkeg

26 Sep

More on this event at www.pureturoa.com or www.powderhorn.co.nz

Waimarino Art Awards

26 Sept - 2 Oct

See WaimarinoArtAwards.org.nz for more information

OCTOBER 2026

Retro Day

3 Oct

Paul Stieglbauer - paul@4thames.co.nz

Mountain Film Festival

8 Oct

Award winning selection of films from the NZ Mountain Film & Book Festival at the Matterhorn. Sponsored by Ruapehu Bulletin

Fashion Show

17 Oct

Matterhorn - enquires to @OhakuneFashionShow.

Land Rover Show Taumarunui

23-25 Oct

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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 06-385-8427, 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 27677)

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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2 • RUAPEHU BULLETIN 16 September 2026

Funding boost of \$405,000 for Horopito hub on Mountains to Sea trail

By Moana Ellis

A \$405,000 Government investment will help fill a critical gap in visitor facilities on the Mountains to Sea – Ngā Ara Tūhono Great Ride, with public toilets among the features planned for a new hub at Horopito.

Tourism Minister Louise Upston says the project will address the lack of visitor infrastructure at a key trail junction, providing public toilets, safe shuttle access, parking and other facilities.

“More than 67,000 people pass through Horopito each year, including on the Great Ride, contributing to the local economy along the way,” Upston said.

The upgrade will improve accessibility, safety and visitor satisfaction while supporting longer stays and sustainable tourism growth in the region, she said.

Horopito, on the edge of the Tongariro National Park, is at the junction of three important sections of the Great Ride – the Ohakune Old Coach Road, Ruatiti Connector and Te Hangāruru.

Whanganui MP Carl Bates said the investment would come from the International Visitor Levy and would support the continued quality and reputation of the Great Ride.

Work was expected to begin once outstanding consent requirements are finalised, Bates said.

Trail makers and tourism leaders in the Ruapehu district are welcoming the investment.

Ngā Ara Tūhono Charitable Trust manager Lynley Twyman said the Horopito Hub would provide a safer and more welcoming gateway for cyclists, walkers and

runners, as well as address a long-standing lack of visitor facilities.

“This investment recognises Horopito’s growing importance within our connected trail network and the wider region.”

Twyman said the Horopito project was another step in growing the Mountains to Sea – Ngā Ara Tūhono network and sharing its benefits across local communities and the wider region.

It’s hoped the new facility will connect with the historic Horopito Old School Hall, allowing it to be better used for community gatherings and events.

Housed in the former Horopito School building, the hall is a Group B Heritage Building and has been preserved through sustained community effort since residents formed the Horopito Residents and Ratepayers Society in 2006.

Visit Ruapehu General Manager Jo Kennedy said Horopito was an important gateway for the district’s visitor network and the visitor hub would create new opportunities for tourism activity in the area.

The Horopito Hub project will be led by Ruapehu District Council, which will own the completed public assets.

Detailed design, consenting and delivery planning will now move ahead, with the aim of opening the Hub next summer.

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

An artist impression of the new visitor hub planned for Horopito on the central plateau, as part of the Mountains to Sea – Ngā Ara Tūhono Great Ride. Photo supplied.

Below: map shows site for new hub.



Bats in your neighbourhood?



Pictured is a pekapeka – long-tailed bat – found in Ohakune by a resident recently and reported to the Department of Conservation. The bat was picked up by DOC who took “this wee taonga” to specialist care at Central Energy Trust Wildbase Recovery in Palmerston North, where it recovered. “Because they’re nocturnal, it’s easy to forget we live alongside pekapeka, but they can have large ranges covering natural, rural, and urban landscapes.” To help protect pekapeka living in and around towns, DOC asks residents to keep your cats indoors, plant trees and keep old trees standing, keep dark places dark and use warm-coloured lights where you need them. The pekapeka has since been released into Tongariro National Park, not too far from where it was found.

The Raetihi Ohakune Garden Club present

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Letters

More people, less land

• There is one unalterable fact we have to take into account this coming election: each week now, the world population is now increasing by about another 1.3 million people.

So who is the candidate and the party, best equipped to deal with all the consequences of the world's extra 200 million people since the last general election?

We are a food-producing district: who will best help us export more food?

The production, transport and shipping of more food produces more greenhouse gases. What party will best help us minimise this gas production and deal with the longer droughts and heavier floods caused by the still-inevitable increase in global warming?

Every extra million people swallow up about 25,000 hectares of land, usually good farmland, for houses, roads, shops, schools, factories, cemeteries etc. Five million hectares have been lost to urbanisation since the last election. Overuse, erosion and drought have destroyed another 10 million hectares of productive land. Ten hectares lost every minute. What party will minimise the loss of it in New Zealand?

Our world now has ever-increasing numbers of people to feed, but ever-decreasing hectares of farmland to provide food for them. What party will encourage the production of foods to feed the maximum number of people and thus 'serve God', and what party will promote our productive lands being used to produce luxury foods for a well-fed minority and merely 'serve Mammon'?

And what party will best ensure food, peace and a liveable climate for the duration of our grandchildren's lives?

John Archer

Letters rules

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

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

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

The editor reserves the right to reject any letter.

Visitor levy won't fix Ruapehu tourism bill: Kirton

By Moana Ellis

Ruapehu's mayor says the proposed visitor levy sharing scheme may put some money back into tourism destinations but will not fund the infrastructure needed to accommodate the district's 1.5 million annual visitors.

Weston Kirton says National's plan to share international visitor levy revenue with councils is a step in the right direction.

However, it was "a blunt instrument" that would not come close to covering infrastructure costs created by "huge numbers of visitors" in a district with only 8000 ratepayers to fund local services through rates.

"It's certainly positive that the government have stepped up, somewhat, to address the issue," Kirton said.

However, with no major source of local income beyond rates, the small ratepayer base would continue to bear the infrastructure costs of a nationally significant tourism destination.

"Sadly, we don't have any other source of income other than rates, and when you look at the makeup of our community with low-income groups and a relatively high level of deprivation, I think we've got a long way to go to address those issues."

The Ruapehu District faced major pressures from tourism, including on wastewater, drinking water, roads, parking, waste collection and other services.

"The [plan for] visitor-levy sharing doesn't cover anywhere near the costs that we need for our community, when we have such an influx all year round now.

"We've got some serious issues with wastewater, with drinking water."

Last month's water supply emergency in Ohakune – when a break in the town's raw water intake pipe left people without water during the height of the ski season – was an example of the financial strain facing the council.

No money for Ohakune pipe

"The incident we had just two or three weeks ago was just what we're saying – we

couldn't have that water line connected to the new plant, because we couldn't afford it."

Ohakune experiences large winter influxes to the two Ruapehu ski fields, while attractions such as the Tongariro Crossing, Whanganui River canoeing, the Tongariro and Whanganui national parks, and cycling bring visitors throughout the year.

None of that came with the funding to support infrastructure development "that we desperately need", Kirton said.

Ruapehu's infrastructure burden was unusual because of the district's relatively small permanent population and dispersed communities.

"We have a rating base of around 8000 ratepayers and to accommodate their needs in various communities, we have six wastewater treatment plants to address, so it's a unique situation."

The mayor has previously criticised National's decision to rule out a bed tax, saying tourism-heavy districts need a fairer way to make visitors contribute to infrastructure costs.

At the end of August, Kirton told Local Democracy Reporting that the decision left Ruapehu ratepayers carrying too much of the cost of infrastructure used by visitors.

The closure of historic hotel Chateau Tongariro was an ongoing issue that had cost the district tourism revenue.

"We lost the Chateau two or three years ago,



Ruapehu mayor Weston Kirton says the proposed visitor levy sharing scheme won't cover the cost of servicing the district's tourism. Photo supplied.

and we're fighting hard to get that back."

Kirton said the loss of the Chateau represented about 30 percent of the district's hotel bed nights, which under the proposed levy funding model would have brought roughly another \$100,000 in levy revenue.

The hotel has been closed since February 2023, when former lessee KAH New Zealand shut the business. A formal process to find a private operator to revive the Chateau and associated buildings at Whakapapa Village began in March.

Kirton said the district was now waiting on Conservation Minister Tama Potaka to decide the outcome.

THE WEEKLY WORKOUT

answers for each puzzle are included on this page

868

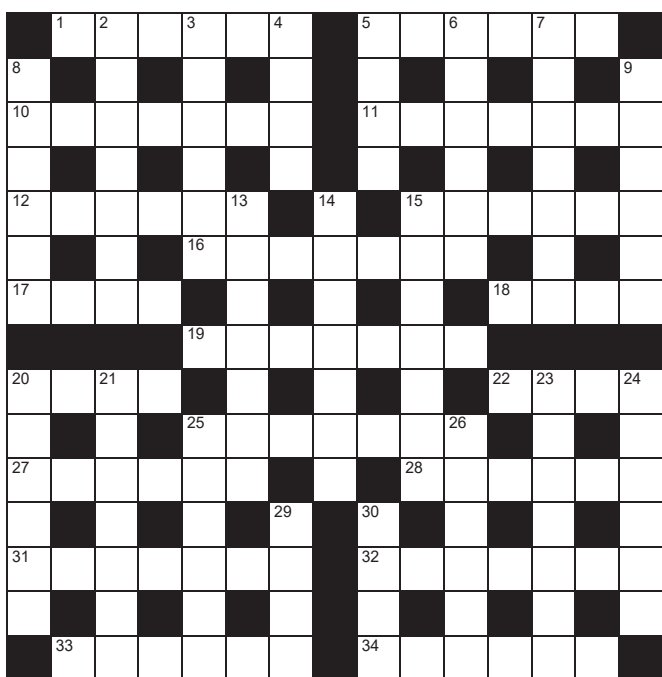
QUICK CROSSWORD

Across

- Strategy (6)
- Exile (6)
- In the direction of (7)
- Rust (7)
- Package (6)
- Disorder, havoc (6)
- Current (7)
- Speed (4)
- Military force (4)
- Lack of success (7)
- Make airtight (4)
- Measure of land (4)
- As well (7)
- Sprinted (6)
- Main meal (6)
- Delight (7)
- Exterior (7)
- Racquet sport (6)
- Roadway (6)

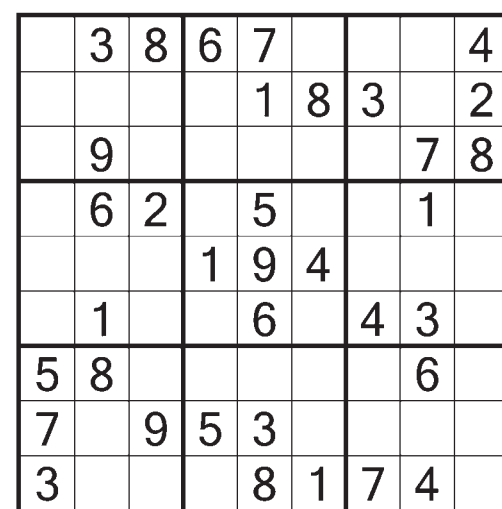
Down

- In the most serious case (2,5)
- Objective (6)
- Coins or notes (4)
- Place a bet on (4)
- As expected (6)
- Suffocate (7)
- Daze (6)
- Proper (6)
- Situated (7)
- Bad guy (7)
- Wed (7)
- Saturated (6)
- Alleviate (7)
- Succinct (7)
- Deserved (6)
- Benevolent (6)
- Nun (6)
- Responsibility (4)
- Common sense (4)

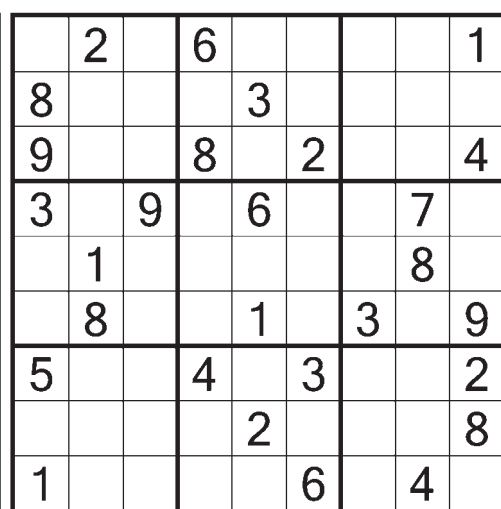


SUDOKU

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



EASY 2



MEDIUM

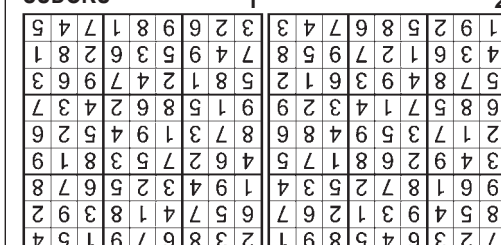
The Top 10

- 2014 was the 60th anniversary of the arrival in New Zealand of which car marque?
- In which decade did Sean Connery play James Bond for the last time?
- Which is the largest internal organ in the human body?
- What is the rubber disc used in a game of ice hockey called?
- Where would you see the word uruwhenua?
- Who was the only person named Oscar to win an Oscar in the 20th century?
- What are the fruits of the rose called?
- How old was John F Kennedy when he died: 41, 46 or 51?
- Dr Frederic Truby King founded which society in New Zealand?
- Who wrote *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*?

CROSSWORD

26. Sister, 29. Onus, 30. Nous.
23. Concise, 24. Earned, 25. Benign,
15. Married, 20. Sudden, 21. Assuage,
8. Stupor, 9. Seemly, 13. Located, 14. Villain,
4. Cash, 5. Back, 6. Normal, 7. Smother,
34. Street, 2. At worst, 3. Target,
31. Elation, 32. Outside, 33. Tennis,
Acce, 25. Besides, 27. Dashed, 28. Dinner,
17. Rate, 18. Army, 19. Failure, 20. Seal, 22.
Corrode, 12. Parcel, 15. Mayhem, 16. Tropical,
Across: 1. Tactic, 5. Banish, 10. Towards, 11.

SUDOKU



THE TOP 10

1 Holden, 2 1980s, 3 Liver, 4 Puck, 5 On the front of a passport, 6 Oscar Hammerstein II, 7 Hips, 8 46, 9 Plunket Society, 10 Beatrix Potter.



Puzzles © The Puzzle Company

RAAF jets buzz Waiouru: support hi-tech F-35 exercise

The first deployment of two Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) F-35A Lightning II aircraft to New Zealand during Exercise Agile Tasman has highlighted the close defence partnership between Australia and New Zealand.

The Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) and New Zealand Army have trained alongside the RAAF demonstrating agile combat employment, integrating RAAF F-35As, C-130J and RNZAF P-8A Poseidon aircraft, as well as Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) personnel in a series of training activities at RNZAF Base Ohakea and Waiouru Military Training Area last week.

The first Exercise Agile Tasman stemmed from a joint Chief of Air Force Vision Statement signed by the RNZAF and RAAF in 2025 and the desire to put its objectives into action.

The Chief of Air Force, Air Vice-Marshal Darryn Webb, said the exercise was an opportunity to practise with Australia to project capabilities in the Pacific.

“Our responsibility to enhance the security and prosperity of our region is best done by Australia and New Zealand and many other nations working together. And to do that effectively, it simply takes practice.”

Training objectives included exercising an RAAF Forward Arming and Refuelling Point (FARP) outside Australia for the first time, delivery of high explosive ordnance into the Waiouru Military Training Area and intercept training with the RNZAF P-8A.

Best mates

The Commanding Officer of No. 3 Squadron RAAF, Wing Commander Mark Biele, said it was wonderful to be in New Zealand and operating together, reinforcing the Anzac spirit, especially when the squadron was celebrating 110 years since its founding.

“It’s our 110th birthday while we are here, and who would we want to



The RAAF F-35A jets approaching Waiouru.



NZ Army JTAC personnel identifying on approach and the ordnance being detonated.

spend that with other than our best mates across the Tasman?”

The main tasks of the exercises included the two F-35As flying from RAAF Base Williamstown to New Zealand, supported by a RAAF KC-30 air-to-air refueller, and then entering the Waiouru skies to execute a co-ordinated time-on-target strike employing two GBU-54 precision-guided bombs, which were GPS target designated into the training area under the control of JTAC’s.

After this the jets landed at Base Ohakea, where they were refuelled from the tanks of a C-130J and rearmed. The FARP demonstrated the ability to rapidly refuel and rearm aircraft, increasing operational reach, resilience and mission tempo in remote or austere environments.

On the third day of the exercise, RNZAF No 5 Squadron and

its P-8As got involved with the jets conducting intercept training – a practice where military fighter jets learn to find, approach, identify and escort other aircraft in flight.

A team of 67 RAAF personnel, including aircrew, maintenance, security forces and refuellers travelled to Base Ohakea, working alongside about 32 RNZAF personnel including aviation rescue firefighters, security forces personnel, refuellers and aircrews from No. 40 and No 5 Squadrons.

Led by the RAAF, and hosted by the RNZAF, the exercise has laid a platform for future training with enhanced interchangeability of personnel and aircraft between the New Zealand and Australia.



FUTURE SERVICES REVIEW SURVEY RESULTS

The feedback and analysis from the recent Future Services Surveys are available to view on our website: ruapehudc.govt.nz or scan the QR code.



Your responses have highlighted which services people value most, where you feel savings might be made, and what trade-offs you support. This will help ensure future decisions match community priorities while addressing financial challenges. Our goal is to balance affordable rates with valued services as we plan the 2027/37 Long-Term Plan under future rate caps.

What happens next?

No decisions on future services are made yet. Your responses will help inform discussions on cutting costs, changing service delivery, or Council’s role. **In October, we’ll present costed options for your feedback.** This next stage will help confirm the service levels to be included in the 2027-2037 Long-Term Plan.



Ruapehu tourism operators strengthen Australian ties

Eight tourism representatives from across the Ruapehu region have returned from the 2026 Kiwi North NZ Australia Roadshow, strengthening trade relationships and showcasing the region to Australian travel sellers.

Led by Visit Ruapehu, the regional team included eight exhibitors: Timber Trail Lodge and Transport, Whakapapa Mt Ruapehu, Blue Duck Station, Tongariro Crossing Lodge, Adrift Tongariro, Night Sky Cottage, Tongariro Suites and Whanganui River Adventures. They joined 15 Regional Tourism Organisations working together under the Kiwi North NZ banner to promote the North Island offshore.

A total of 76 North Island tourism operators attended the three-city showcase, with events in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane connecting operators with product managers and a range of travel sellers from Australia.

The inaugural Kiwi North NZ Roadshow was held in August 2025 with only Adrift Tongariro, Powderhorn Chateau and Visit Ruapehu in attendance. This year, the Ruapehu contingency nearly tripled in numbers with high engagement from our local communities.

Visit Ruapehu said the stronger regional presence reflected growing operator confidence in the Australian travel trade market and the value of working together to promote Ruapehu as part of a wider North Island story.

Mandy Nguyen, Tongariro Suites and Night Sky Cottage, first-time attendee, said the roadshow was an excellent experience and great value in terms of raising awareness for their name and region and highlighting how much they have to offer.

"I found the engagement very supportive and beneficial. Visit Ruapehu provided sufficient information, and the Zoom meetings were very helpful to ensure we were all well-prepared for the trip."

Amanda Crang, Adrift Tongariro said it was her second year attending the Roadshow, and "the organisers really upped their game".

"Brisbane, Melbourne, and Sydney were a huge success, with fantastic energy in each room from North Island operators passionate about their products and Australian travel agents genuinely eager to learn more."

"This year, I noticed a much stronger base knowledge of the North Island among the agents, which meant less time explaining where we are and more time having meaningful conversations about what Ruapehu and our wider region have to offer."

"It's always valuable to put faces to names and continue building those relationships in person. I've definitely come away feeling that Kiwi North NZ is a very worthwhile event."

Josephine Haworth, Whanganui River Adventures, first-time attendee said if there are any operators thinking about attending next year and have the time and finance, suggests "just do it, no regrets".

Marina Van Wyk, Tongariro Crossing Lodge, first-time attendee, said she would "definitely recommend getting involved".

"The key value for those not currently working with trade partners is to increase their bookings or sales. For those who currently are already working with trade, it's a great opportunity to build relationships, understand the trade market, learn how buyers think and sell the region, and get your product in front of people who may not otherwise have an awareness of it."

"One of the secondary outcomes that I found valuable about this event are the connections we have made with other operators across the North Island. There is a lot of value in travelling and working alongside other North Island operators ... making sure we are consistently promoting the North Island as a destination."



Mahalee Guieysse from Visit Ruapehu introduces Ruapehu at Kiwi North Australia Roadshow Aug 2026. Photo: Visit Ruapehu.

World Rivers celebration with planting session

Owhango Alive is celebrating World Rivers Day again, meeting at the Whakapapa River Bridge car park and invites people to join them in the celebration and "acknowledge the importance of our rivers globally".

The group will also be planting around 150 native trees along the banks of the river – sturdy footwear and spades would be advised.

After the tree planting, refreshments will be shared

at the Owhango Pavilion in the Domain, along with their guest speaker, Alastair Cole – a herpetologist and will share with us his extensive knowledge on skinks, gheckos and lizards.

The event is to be held from 10am on Sunday 27 September – first day of Daylight Saving and they ask people to let them know by 17 September at owhangoalive@yahoo.com.

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VOICE OF THE RUAPEHU REGION
Tuesday 16 September 1986. Volume 4 No. 16

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Manganuiateao preservation is promised

A well-attended meeting in Raetihi last week heard conservation and wildlife authorities explain the purpose and implications of the proposed national conservation order for the Manganuiateao River.

The proposed order is the culmination of many years effort by the Waimarino ward of the central North Island conservancy council to protect the river.

The chairman of the ward, Mr Todd of Owahango, spoke of feasibility studies carried out in the 1970s by the Wanganui-Rangitikei Electric Power Board to develop a hydro electric power dam on the river which would have threatened wildlife values and the interest of anglers.

"A petition organised by John Dobson and Harry Brown was presented to Parliament and is a credit to them," he said.

The river has been protected in the interim by a device sponsored by the Queen Elizabeth II Trust which fixed a minimum river flow for five years. This runs out in July 1987 which helps explain the need for the new order.

The regional conservator of wildlife from Rotorua, Mr Stack, read the statement by the Minister of Internal Affairs which supported the proposal.

The document outlines the outstanding values of the river in its wildlife, its angling bounty, its scenic beauty and its historical associations, which justify the national conservation order.

Blue duck

The river includes one of the main habitats for the threatened whio, or blue duck, which the minister

Dave Pike, senior environment officer from Wellington, explained that a national conservation order rather than a local one was necessary because of the outstanding value of the river. The national order would also bind the crown as well as local interests.

Errol Cudby, co-author of a publication on the river, spoke of the three year study of the river which involved diving, netting and tagging fish.

Most speakers from the floor supported the proposal but asked for specific information on such matters as ownership of river banks, and extraction of metal.

One interesting aspect of the order is that it protects the water only and not the bed or the banks. Government speakers however, pointed out that other measures, such as town and country planning and mining legislation should protect these aspects.

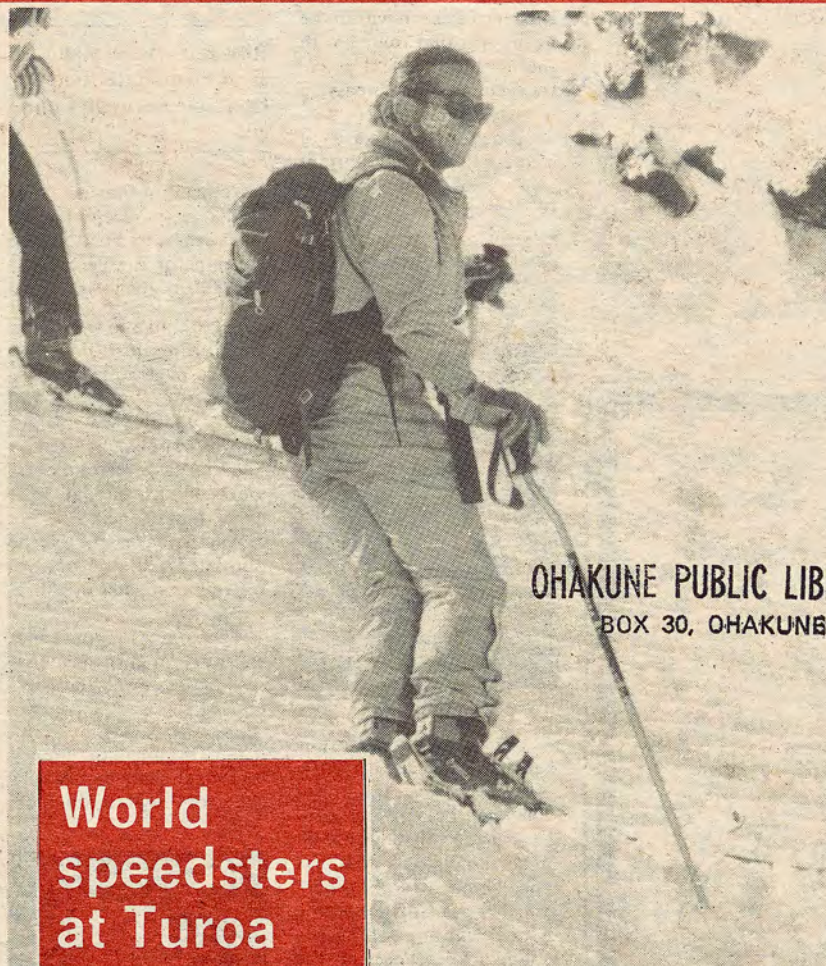
Conflict

Keith Chapple for the RNZ Forest and Bird Society supported the order but worried over management of the river with increasing use - the conflict between recreation and wildlife protection.

The chief engineer for the Wanganui-Rangitikei Electric Power Board spoke of the need to search for economic sources of electric power, but said the board was happy to bow to public opinion in the case of the Manganuiateao.

Chairman of the Waimarino County Council, Bruce Berry, thanked the speakers.

"I enjoy turning the power on, and I enjoy throwing a line into the Manganuiateao to catch that big fish sitting there. There are always problems, and we have to



World speedsters at Turoa

Top New Zealand speed skier Henry van Asch up on the Mangaehuehu Glacier course last week. This week he and more than 60 other racers will take part in a world series race on Turoa.

SPEED SKIING SPECIAL INSIDE

Council terminates lease

The Ohakune Borough Council has notified the Victoria Park Markets of the intended termination of the Auckland company's lease on the Jubilee Park area because of non-performance on the part of the company.

No work has been done for two years since the company leased the park area, proposed to heat and cover the swimming pool and build an ice skating rink.

Many residents were concerned last summer when the Ohakune swimming baths were not opened to the public due to inaction by Victoria Park Markets.

Ohakune's Mayor, Bill Taylor, said that no reply had been received from the firm, although notification of the proposed termination would have been received on 26 August.

Mr Taylor is adamant that the baths will be fit to open this season and says that the council is prepared to re-assume responsibility for the complex.

"I am personally determined that the baths will be open for the summer season," said Mr Taylor.

"If it means having to run them myself, then I am prepared to do that."

Mr Taylor said that the toilet and changing facilities were in need of upgrading, and that he thought it was the borough's responsibility to see these requirements met.

Councillor Whale dies suddenly

Waimarino County Councillor Malcolm Whale died suddenly on Friday after he collapsed at home.

Mr Whale, who was 40, had been a county councillor since June 1982 and served on numerous committees.

He was a member of the works committee, deputy member of the district roads board committee, and a member of the steering committee

Hard work at marae

For the last two weeks it has been all go at the Raetihi Marae as local people set about upgrading the interior of the marae's dining room and kitchen.

The Awhina Whanau - the people of the marae, started work on the kitchen a week ago.

The marae's catering instructor, Mark McNeil, organised a work party to start refurbishing straight away, but there is still a lot to be done before the job is finished.

Many Raetihi residents stayed on the marae last weekend and discussed general marae business.

A number of volunteers from the group joined the workers and helped paint roofs, cupboards and window frames.

The marae are hopeful that the kitchen may be lined during a working-bee but as Mr McNeil said:

"It's a matter of finance - if anyone can donate \$500 towards the cause, we would be only too happy to accept it."

Ruapehu Bulletin

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PERSONAL NOTICES

GORDON HALL: Friends are invited to a final farewell Wake on behalf of Gordon to be held on Sunday 1st September in the Mountain Rocks Cafe, Ohakune. Come along from 4pm to wish Gordon a final farewell, any queries, you are welcome to contact his wife, Liz 0210 262 1313".

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



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PUBLIC NOTICES

**Rangataua Hall
Committee AGM**

Monday 21 September, 6.30pm
at the Rangataua Hall

All welcome.



Advisory Notice

Demolition Activities

The New Zealand Defence Force is conducting demolition activities on Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th September 2026 in the North-Western area of the Defence training area, Waiouru.

There will be infrequent loud explosions each day from late morning to late afternoon. Whilst NZDF will be mitigating the noise levels as much as possible, members of public susceptible to, or concerned about, sudden loud noises are requested to avoid close proximity to areas West of the Makahikatoa Stream, North of the NZDF boundary up to the Tukino Road"

For further information, please contact:
Central Region Response Task Element
021 244 5775

**TŪWHARETOA MĀORI
TRUST BOARD
Annual Hui**

The Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board gives notice of its Annual Hui for the year ended 30 June 2026 to be held at

Hirangi Marae, 39 Hirangi Road, Tūrangi,
on Saturday 5 December 2026,
commencing at 10:00am
(registrations open at 9.30am).

Beneficiaries may request copies of the Trust Board's Annual Report and Financial Statements by contacting the office on (07) 386 8832 from 13 November 2026. Hard copies of the Annual Report and Financial Statements will also be available at the Annual Hui.

Rakeipoho Taiaroa
Chief Executive Officer



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PUBLIC NOTICES

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



Agendas are published on our Public Portal two working days before each scheduled meeting.

To speak at our Public Forum and share your thoughts directly with Elected Members, please contact our Governance team at governance@ruapehudc.govt.nz.

All meetings are livestreamed and can be found on the Ruapehu District Council website under the Agendas & Livestream icon on the main page.

**Extraordinary Waimarino-Waiouru
Community Board**

12PM, Thursday 17 September 2026, ONLINE

Ruapehu District Council

10AM, Wednesday, 30 September 2026
Council Chambers, Huia Street, Taumarunui

MEETING CONTACTS

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



**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.

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Raetihi Ohakune Garden Club president Di Rout, at right, and vice president Maryanne Greening look for potential prize-winning blooms at Ron and Peggy Frew's farm.

Best blooms on show

Spring is bursting out all over and local gardeners are invited to pick their best blooms to go on show at the annual Bev Hiscox Memorial Show at The Centre in Seddon Street, Raetihi on Saturday 19 September.

Once again Raetihi Ohakune Garden Club is combining with the Raetihi Market Day, bringing readers their annual spring flower show.

The Show is named in honour of much-loved late club member, Bev Hiscox.

Exhibits will have been judged and are on display until 2pm.

Children can enter on Saturday by bringing a flower in vases from home.

Other highlights are plenty of plants on sale along with food at the market.

"Everything highlights our area. It's our way to welcome Spring," says Club president Di Rout.

Spring is definitely here and the Waimarino gardens are bursting with colour.

The show promises to be full of first class flowers, shrubs and competitions.

"Come and enter your flowers, photos, floral art and painted rocks – we will help you," says a Club member.

Schedules with entry times and information are available from Raetihi Info Centre and Ohakune Bookshop.

Wetland wānanga brings freshwater expertise to farmers

Farmers and rural landowners interested in wetlands, water quality and practical options for their farms are invited to attend a Wetland Wānanga being hosted by the Whanganui Region Catchment Collective on Wednesday 23 September.

The event will feature freshwater ecologist and wetland specialist Dr Rebecca Eivers of Wai Kōkopu Consulting, who will share practical experience from wetland projects across New Zealand.

Originally from a sheep and beef farm in Tairāwhiti/Gisborne, Dr Eivers completed her BSc and MSc at the University of Canterbury and PhD at the University of Waikato. Her work focuses on freshwater ecology, wetland restoration and water quality, working alongside farmers, landowners, iwi and communities to find practical solutions that support both productive landscapes and healthy ecosystems.

The Wānanga will explore how both constructed and natural wetlands can be used on farms to improve water quality, manage sediment and nutrients, reduce E. coli, manage water flows and provide habitat for native species.

A key focus of the day will be helping farmers understand how to identify "the right wetland, in the right place, for the right reasons."

Rebecca will talk through different types of wetlands and where they can be most effective, including constructed treatment wetlands, sediment ponds and filtration wetlands. She will also discuss restoring existing drained or degraded wetlands and share some of the lessons she has learnt from projects that have worked well – and some of the problems farmers can avoid.

Following the morning session, participants will head out for practical farm visits. This will provide an opportunity to take the morning's discussion into the paddock and look at the practical considerations involved in planning, establishing and managing wetlands on a working farm.

The day is designed for farmers and rural landowners, whether they already have a wetland, are considering restoring one, have a wet or poorly performing area of the

farm they are wondering what to do with, or simply want to better understand the opportunities wetlands may offer.

The Whanganui Region Catchment Collective brings farmers, landowners and community members together to better understand and improve the streams and waterways flowing through the district.

The Wetland Wānanga is an opportunity to learn from specialist expertise, see local examples and talk with other farmers about what might work on their own properties.

Registration is essential. For further information and to register, visit the Wetland Wānanga event page:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1086489933885213/>

Ohakune Fashion Show

17 October | Matterhorn

MC - GLEN OSBOURNE - Ex All Black
Popular covers performed by Lisa Lou

SAVE THE DATE

All proceeds support
Greenlea Rescue
Helicopter




NZ MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL

NATIONAL TOUR



NZ Mountain Film Festival

Matterhorn, Ohakune. Thursday 8 October
Doors open 6.30pm Film starts 7pm

Tickets \$20 from the Ruapehu Bulletin office or on the door.
Fundraiser for Predator Free Ohakune

Ruapehu Bulletin

www.mountainfilm.nz

SKI-RUN-BIKE-SCULL

PEAK 2

POWDERKEG

SATURDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER

INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM ENTRIES WELCOME





Register online at
Turoa.com






Get your entry in: Peak to 'Keg is back

The Peak to Powderkeg race – an event for all, not just dedicated athletes – returns to Ohakune on Saturday 26 September after a six-year break.

The “sprint, ski, run, bike, sprint, scull” race remains the formula that has made this race a fixture of the Ruapehu spring calendar.

Organisers are urging people to register now to ensure the event is properly revived.

The 30th anniversary alpine relay kicks off from the top of Tūroa Ski Area. Entrants can take on the mountain solo or as part of a three-person team, with every team required

to include at least one woman.

The route unfolds in stages: a ski or snowboard leg from top to bottom of the ski area, a 4.8km downhill run along the sealed Ohakune Mountain Road, and an 11.5km downhill bike leg, finishing with a 300m sprint then the trademark scull (beer, or lemonade if under-age). Expect a full afternoon on the mountain: competitors gather at the base at 3pm, with the event finishing at the Powderkeg once the last beer has been sculled.

This year marks the event’s 30th running, a milestone made more notable by the fact that recent editions have

repeatedly fallen victim to the weather. Poor snow conditions and high winds on the mountain road have forced cancellations or postponements in past years. This time, organisers are committed to running the race no matter the weather, so long as enough entries come in to make it worth holding.

Category winners and lucky entrants alike will be in for prizes at the Powderkeg, with a barbecue for all to round out the evening. This year’s race is backed by Scott, Opus Fresh, Powderkeg, and TCB.

Registration has early bird pricing is available for a limited time: \$99 for competitors, \$69 for juniors under 18, \$179 for teams, or \$59 for spectators wanting in on the barbecue.

Road closures will be necessary to run the event – the mountain road and Thames Street will be closed for a period

between 2pm and 7pm. Tūroa wants to hear from people affected by the road closures if they have questions or concerns: james@pureturoa.nz or events@pureturoa.nz.

Beer decides race



Tony Munroe downs a beer while Len Smyth heads for his at the finish of last Wednesday's Peak to Powderkeg ski, run, cycle and scull race. See story page 16.

First and second at the first-ever Peak to Keg race, October 1991.

Property Brokers

Ohakune 25 Miro Street



Multi-titled units

An excellent opportunity has arisen in Ohakune to secure a multi-unit investment with strong income potential. 25 Miro Street comprises three separately titled residential units, being offered together to give a new owner the opportunity to acquire the complete cross-lease holding. A price guide of \$475,000 for the entire property along with necessary work required on them allows a conservative estimate of achieving 10% + returns.

9 4 2 2

Auction 1.00pm, Thu 15th Oct, 2026,

1 Goldfinch Street, Ohakune

View By appointment

Web pb.co.nz/OHU236502



Alexis Gault

M 022 054 3510

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Enhancing Wetlands

With Rebecca Eivers

Ongarue - 21st September

Owhango - 23rd September

Whanganui- 25th September

10am - 3pm

Join us for a hands-on wetland workshop with wetland specialist Rebecca Eivers (Wai Kōkupu Consulting)! We'll cover how to develop and enhance wetland areas on your property, why these often-overlooked corners of the farm matter so much for water quality and biodiversity, and we'll get out and visit a few real wetland sites in the catchment to see the theory in action.

Whether you've got an established wetland, a soggy paddock corner you're not sure what to do with, or you're just curious about what's possible, this workshop is for you.

Open to all — bring your gumboots!

REGISTER NOW

ncavewrcc@gmail.com

WHANGANUI REGION CATCHMENT COLLECTIVE



LET US GET YOU A LONG TERM TENANT

Call Property Brokers Ohakune 06 3854466

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Property Management