



Waimarino art on show P3



Spring blooms in Raetihi P3



Dr Iain's 60 years in medicine P5



Schools' success on snow P12

Fire in a firewood shed: realistic exercise tests local crews

The user of an acetylene welding kit accidentally set fire to a wood drying kiln shed on Saturday, leading to three people having to be evacuated by local fire brigade volunteers.

Fire fighters arrived to what they had been advised was a chimney fire, but soon found a much worse situation.

They quickly found one patient but this soon escalated to three – one of them seriously injured.

The victims were treated by local St John Ambulance team members, with one flown away from the scene on Rangataua Road.

Later, a brigade member had to be rescued by fellow-volunteers using breathing apparatus to gain access to rescue the fire fighter.

Meanwhile, another team were tasked with hosing down the acetylene tanks to cool them down after the shed fire raised the temperature of the tanks to dangerous levels.

Because the local tanker wasn't available, fire fighters had to find an alternative water source, using a pump to deliver water to the fire appliances from a nearby pond.

These were all aspects of a large simulation exercise at a rural property on Rangataua Road.

The exercise involved brigades from Raetihi, Ohakune, Waiouru and the Waimarino Rohe rural brigade, as well as the Whanganui Command Unit.

The Officer Tactical Command Training session involved refresher training for eight officers from the brigades – a requirement for brigade officers every two years.

"It's often held in a classroom but it's great to be able to test them in a realistic situation," said Renee Potae, Assistant District Commander for Manawatu-Whanganui.

Around 40 people were involved, including St John personnel.

"New recruits were there too – it's great experience for them before their training coming up," said Potae.

She said everyone passed, although there are "always work-ons".

Marty Webb, one of the officers being tested, said such exercises can really test them.

If you're doing too well, they always chuck in something else unexpected to deal with."

"If you're doing too well, they always chuck in something else unexpected to deal with."

A unique feature this exercise was setting up a viewing area, so families of brigade members could witness the events.

The command unit keeps track of each team, using a digital tracking system to show each position on a screen, which can be shared across multiple devices. This system allows anyone around the country to follow the exercise – and make comments.

The unit also has a mast with a camera on top, overseeing the scene.

"Someone will quickly tell us if they see anything that's not right," says Potae. "Bree's (an Ohakune Brigade volunteer) got her gloves off because she's managing a helmet."

She said someone is bound to comment on that.

"But that's completely acceptable."



Fire fighters hose down the acetylene cylinders that have increased in temperature to a dangerous level.



Brigade member Jenny Robb plays the part of the distraught wife of 'Franky' the 85kg exercise dummy who unfortunately died for the umpteenth time.



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New Maru trustee

Maru Energy Trust has a new Taumarunui-based trustee – Melissa Jackson (Uenuku, Tamahaki, Tamakana, Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu) has been appointed as the new King Country Trust representative for Maru, replacing Sandra Greenslade.

Melissa has strong ties to the King Country, having begun her career as a solicitor at Lamb Bain Laubscher in Te Kuiti, where she practised for six years.

She now leads the Policy, Strategy and Sustainability team at Ruapehu District Council and holds a number of professional and community-based governance roles. She was elected to the King Country Trust in February this year.

Maru Energy Trust, a not-for-profit charitable trust, was established by The Lines Company (TLC) in 2018. Its purpose is to make local homes warmer, drier and healthier by funding free insulation and heat pumps across the TLC network area. TLC remains a major supporter of the Trust which also receives funding from the government, King Country Trust, Ōtorohanga District Council and Ruapehu District Council.

Since inception, Maru has insulated more than 1220 homes and installed 600 heat pumps in homes across the King Country and central plateau.



New Maru trustee Melissa Jackson.

Ruapehu Events & What's On

SEPTEMBER 2026

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

Girls Who Shred

TBC

More on this event at www.pureturoa.com

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 Facebook @OhakuneFashionShow. Tickets from Ruapehu Bulletin or Powderhorn reception

Land Rover Show Taumarunui

23-25 Oct

Contact: landrovershow@gmail.com or on Facebook The Land-Rover Show.

For all your ski board and bike rental needs

T C B

Ski, Board & Bike

Cnr Ayr St & Goldfinch St, Ohakune

06-385-8433 tcb.nz

FOR MORE DETAILS, GO TO OHAKUNE.INFO

IT'S FREE TO LIST SO PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE AN EVENT COMING UP ...
ADS@RUAPEHUBULLETIN.CO.NZ
LINK YOUR EVENT TO EVENTFINDA FOR FREE

Endangered whio killed by fly fishing line

An extremely malnourished whio/blue duck has been euthanised due to severe injuries after being discovered with a fishing hook in its foot and line wrapped around its wings.

Department of Conservation communications advisor Krysia Nowak says the sad incident is a reminder to anglers of the risk discarded fishing equipment can pose to wildlife.

On Thursday 10 September 2026, an angler fishing the Tongariro River came across the whio in distress and brought it to a vet for care.

Nowak was one of those who responded to the wildlife emergency.

“The whio was clearly underweight and in really poor condition,” says Krysia.

“Whio are usually very feisty, but this was docile as anything.”

“We attempted to cut and unwind some of the line, but quickly realised helping this bird needed more specialist care, so one of our rangers dropped all of her work for the day to race the bird to specialist vets at Wildbase in Palmerston North.”

Detailed examination by Wildbase vets showed severe damage from a loss of blood flow to the left wing due to the wrapped fishing line. Vets determined the wing would need to be amputated.

Whio cannot survive in the wild with only one wing, so given the extent of the injuries, the decision was made to euthanise it.

DOC Taupō Fishery’s James Barnett says it’s really upsetting to see such an icon of New Zealand’s waterways suffer.

“We don’t know exactly what happened here, but as anglers we can help prevent accidents like this. Prevention is better than the cure – and one way is to be aware of your surroundings and avoid casting near whio.

“Another real biggie, and something we often deal with as rangers, is discarded fishing line and other materials. Anglers should never leave old line or flies around which could entangle native birds.”

Whio are a threatened river specialist duck found only in New Zealand, with fewer than 3000 remaining. Whio and trout both thrive in clean, clear and cold fast-flowing waterways.

James says sharing rivers with native wildlife is an absolute privilege.

An xray of the blue duck, showing the damage caused by the fishhook and line. Photo supplied.

“Protecting whio is part of protecting the environment that we love to fish in.”

Krysia says despite the sad outcome, staff are grateful to the angler who noticed the bird was in trouble.

“If you ever come across a native bird like whio in distress while out naturing, please call 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468), and we can advise on the best thing to do in the situation that bird is in.”

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 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 1190; Johnny Dryden 027 573 4728; Brian Portland 027 558 5585; Oriwia Wanakore 020 498 4088; Robyn Gram (RDC Rep) 027 389 1912

Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board:
John (Luig) 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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Celebrating 20 years of creativity: Art Awards marks anniversary

The Waimarino Art Awards will celebrate a significant milestone this year, marking its 20th Anniversary with a vibrant programme of exhibitions, workshops and community engagement centred around the arts.

The anniversary exhibition opens on 27 September 2026 at the historic Royal Theatre, Raetihi, bringing together artists, audiences and supporters to celebrate two decades of creativity in the Waimarino district and beyond.

Featured artists this year in The Raw Edge Exhibition, are Patena Tupe, Deb Brock and Liam Porter.

The 20th Anniversary programme extends beyond the gallery walls, with a week-long series of arts workshops designed to encourage participation, learning and creative exploration. Workshops will be held at both the Royal Theatre and Volcano Vibe Gallery, providing opportunities for artists, aspiring creatives and community members of all ages to engage directly with experienced practitioners.

Monday 28 September, there will be at least three art workshops per day, from gold fibre collage, pyrography and paint and sip to drawing competitions at Freddie's Bar

and Cafe up at Tūroa skifield.

Brochures are at the iSites and other outlets in the district. Call Annie Stone to book.

Since its inception, the Waimarino Art Awards has provided a platform for artists across the region, aiming to foster artistic excellence while strengthening connections between communities and the arts. The 2026 anniversary celebrations honour that legacy while looking forward to the next generation of creative talent.

"The Waimarino Art Awards has become a much-loved cultural event for the region," says Annie Stone, awards co-ordinator.

"Reaching twenty years is an opportunity to celebrate not only the artists whose work has inspired audiences over the years, but also the volunteers, supporters and communities who have made the Awards possible."

Members of the public are invited to attend the exhibition opening, explore The Raw Edge Exhibition, and participate in the week of workshops and creative activities.

Opening: 4pm 27 September at the Royal Theatre, Raetihi.

For further information, exhibition details and workshop schedules, call Annie Stone on 021 638 800



Waimarino Art Awards co-ordinator Annie Stone organising art works for the exhibition. Photo: John Chapman.

Blooming with colour at spring show

Saturday's blooming good show at The Centre in Rātihī, where the hall was full of flowers and shrubs, making the show full of colour and diversity, says garden club committee member Di Rout.

"This gave people a look at what can be grown in our area. The display of different daffodils was a good opportunity to see all the different kinds of daffodils," said Di.

show. It was a very successful event.”

Results: Champion narcissi, Rita Hammond. Most outstanding camellia, Merrill Lewis. Most outstanding cut flower, Merrill Lewis. Most outstanding tree and shrubs, Heather Oliver. Champion exhibit of the show other than narcissi, Heather Oliver. Most outstanding flower arrangement, Sue Deadman. Overall winner based on points, Angel Joyce. Raffle, \$100 winner, Susie Hedge. Raffle of plants and shrubs, Ann Role.



Helen Cussins enjoys her role as the Spring Show welcoming committee. Photo: Christine Valverde.

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



Letters

Snow future

• My wife Diana is the bookings officer for ski lodges on both sides of Mount Ruapehu – Ohakune and halfway up the hill at Whakapapa. It’s reasonably busy this time of the year as it should be. There’s some snow and, hopefully with another dump, enough to last through to October.

We’ve been skiing the mountain for 60 years. Diana’s father, Bruce helped build one of the lodges in the early 50’s, her parents met on the mountain and would hide their skis under a rock till they were back.

It holds a lot of wonderful memories for us and while the impulse ‘bluey’ ski trips are probably behind us, we do intend to check it out once again in Spring.

But as many skiers know, this magnificent mountain is in trouble as a ski resort. Apart from climate change, there is iwi and DOC to contend with, plus a growing desire for more comfort. In days gone by, we would leave Auckland after work at 5 and get to the mountain about 10, then face a 1km walk up a snow-clad mountain often in a blizzard with a pack on your back and skis under your arm. Then share a room with two strangers.

But it was all worth it when you woke up on the mountain especially if it was a ‘bluey’. However, that just isn’t an option for many these days and older skiers like us tend to head to the airport rather than the road.

The future doesn’t look that good. The Chateau is closed and iwi are pushing 10-year limits on operators, which means infrastructure required to go higher on the mountain where there’s more snow isn’t sustainable.

Ohakune, the easier option, is also struggling and while mountain biking and bush walks help, the big money remains up the maunga. There’s money in the bank this month, but the bills keep coming and the summer can be long.

What will happen next? Several of the clubs are going broke and with lodges up the mountain and in the village in Ohakune, maintenance will become a growing problem.

There has been some reprieve from recent immigrants to the country who are making group bookings. They love the mountain and surrounding activities and are filling some of the holes but it’s not enough.

Does the North Island have a future as a ski destination? Probably not until all interested groups can come together, the Chateau can reopen and a few more rough winters add lots more of the white stuff.

Shaun Fay

Heavy jet

• Thank you for publishing that very revealing photo of the RAAF F-35 warplane at Waiouru with its signature trail of

hot turbulent air, a feature that recently enabled a modern Iranian SAM missile to lock onto and damage an F-35 that was attacking Iran, despite its stealth coating.

The US now has about 650 of them and has spent US\$2000 billion developing, building and maintaining them.

Australia paid AU\$12 billion for 72 of them (AU\$166 million for each plane), plus a further AU\$5 billion for their maintenance.

But the F-35 has major problems. It is too heavy to be agile in flight and needs AU\$60,000 of maintenance for every hour it is in the air, due to wear and tear on its 2 million parts, especially its sky-roasting engines. Also, its stealth coating keeps peeling off and an air-conditioned hanger is needed to replace it.

Australia has paid for only 1500 hours maintenance of each aircraft, and they are built to fly for 8000 hours, which will cost Aussie taxpayers another AU\$22 billion.

Another major problem is that F-35s need a well-equipped military airfield with many specialist ground-crew and a concrete runway longer than 2000m to operate from and, as the recent Russian and American invasions have demonstrated, the defender’s satellites, drones and missiles can easily find and destroy invaders’ warplanes parked on such airfields.

Consequently, countries are now lining up to buy the Gripen E to defend their airspace. This simpler and much more agile low-maintenance Swedish warplane uses electronic warfare (EW) to jam enemy radars and hide in plain sight, needs only one specialist and 4 non-specialists to prepare it for takeoff, and they can be dispersed all over the country and operate from anywhere there are straight stretches of highway at least 500m long. (tinyurl.com/RAAF-F35)

John Archer

Green dislike

• Marama Davidson (Co-Leader of the Green Party) was interviewed on TV1 on 14 September regarding the changes to the RMA Act.

During this interview, it was the same old rhetoric, in that she was attacking our National Primary Producing Company’s (i.e. Fonterra) stating that they were putting profits over and above the environment.

This in my opinion proves that the Green Party have an intense dislike for all of New Zealand’s Primary Producers.

She forgets that it is these industries that are the backbone of New Zealand’s economy.

Phillip Harvey

Incorrect delivery

• Chris Hipkins has previously said that Labour “over-promised and underdelivered”.

This is incorrect.

Labour overpromised and overspent and did not deliver.

Phillip Harvey

Karioi solar farm rights sold

An Australian and New Zealand renewable energy developer and operator announced last week that it has entered into an agreement to acquire the Karioi and Ongaonga Solar Farms from Helios Energy Hold LP, a New Zealand-based developer of grid-scale solar and battery energy storage (BESS) projects.

The company, Anza, is backed by global infrastructure investor I Squared Capital (“I Squared”), today

Together, the two projects represent 205 MWac (236 MWdc) of consented solar and BESS generation capacity, expected to produce approximately 411,400 MWh of clean electricity annually – enough to power the equivalent of approximately 58,000 New Zealand homes.

“Karioi and Ongaonga are well located consented projects, ready to move into construction,” says Carlo Frigerio, chief executive officer of Anza Power.

“Together, they add 205 MWac to our New Zealand pipeline and bring us a step closer to the affordable, low-carbon generation the country needs.

“We want to acknowledge the quality of the development work Helios has done, and the landowners, mana whenua and communities who have shaped both projects. We look forward to continuing that partnership as we take them through construction and into operations.”

“The Karioi and Ongaonga projects represent years of careful development work alongside landowners, mana whenua and local communities,” says Jeff Schlichting, managing director of Helios Energy.

Located near Tangiwai in the Ruapehu District, the 110 MWac (125 MWdc) Karioi Solar Farm holds resource consent granted by Ruapehu District Council, following an application process that spanned more than two years of planning, design and stakeholder engagement.

The project will connect to Transpower’s Tangiwai substation, an existing transmission network connection point identified for its combination of strong solar resource and cooler ambient air temperatures. The site will be leased from a local multigenerational farming family and will remain in agricultural production through ongoing sheep grazing, alongside deer grazing on surrounding paddocks. The project design also preserves natural wetlands and provides for new native vegetation planting along site boundaries.

Both projects have been shaped by consultation with mana whenua, local councils, the Department of Conservation, Fire and Emergency New Zealand, and other key stakeholders, with both consents vetted through the Resource Management Act (RMA) consenting process. Anza is committed to continuing this engagement as both projects move towards construction.

Once construction begins, the two projects are together expected to create approximately 150 jobs during construction, delivering a positive economic contribution to the Ruapehu and Central Hawke’s Bay communities respectively through local employment, procurement and training opportunities.

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

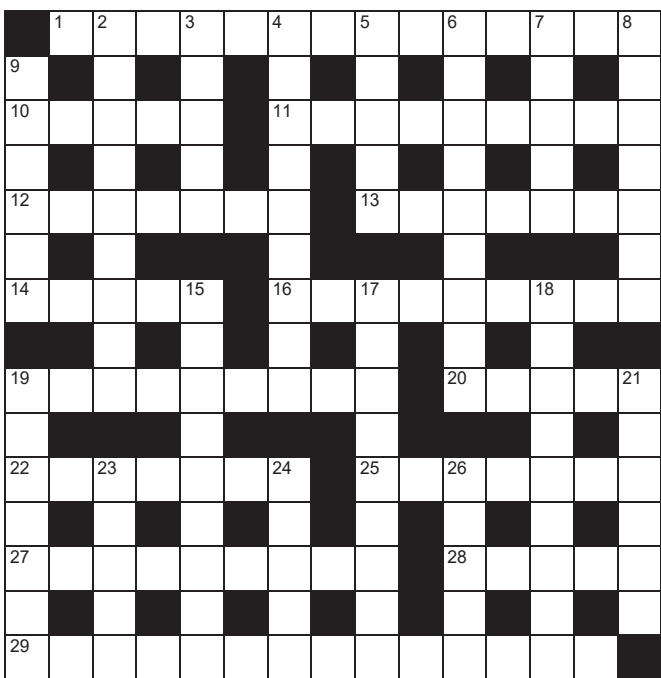
QUICK CROSSWORD

Across

- 1. Full-costume practice (5,9)
- 10. Measuring stick (5)
- 11. Arduous (9)
- 12. Crucial (7)
- 13. Relating to computer technology (7)
- 14. Pick-me-up (5)
- 16. Immediately (5,4)
- 19. Envious (5-4)
- 20. Bucolic (5)
- 22. Trembling (7)
- 25. Desert (7)
- 27. Fill again (9)
- 28. Delayed or postponed (2,3)
- 29. Antiquity (10,4)

Down

- 2. Suitability (9)
- 3. Small fish (5)
- 4. Consistently (9)
- 5. Relentlessly pursue (5)
- 6. Amphibious reptile (9)
- 7. Period of work (5)
- 8. Legitimately (7)
- 9. The hollow under the shoulder (6)
- 15. Insect (9)



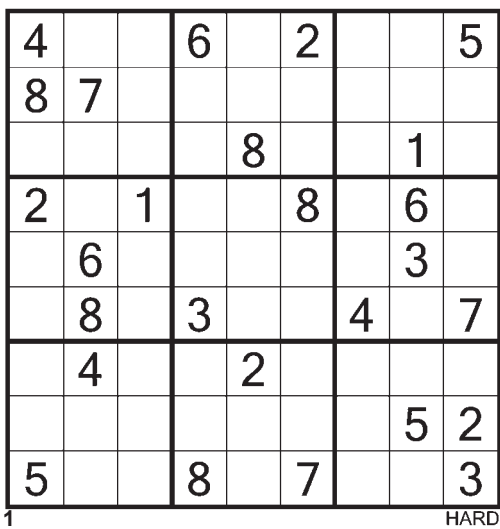
- 17. Male sponsor (9)
- 18. Global (9)
- 19. Relating to the stomach (7)
- 21. Dally (6)
- 23. Horrify (5)
- 24. Gleam (5)
- 26. Garlic mayonnaise (5)



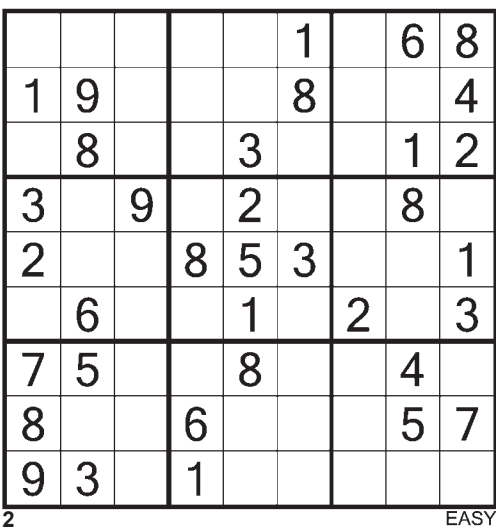
Puzzles © The Puzzle Company

SUDOKU

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



HARD 2



EASY

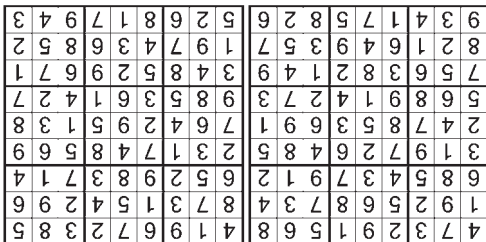
The Top 10

- 1. Is the silver fern emblem based on ponga fern, bracken fern, or mamaku tree fern?
- 2. What word, used in a board game, comes from the Persian phrase “sah mat”, which means “the king is dead”?
- 3. Which way do bats always turn when leaving a cave – left or right?
- 4. In te reo it’s pungawerewere. What is it in English?
- 5. Which Disney film featured the song I’ve Got No Strings?
- 6. What does someone suffering from triskaidekaphobia fear?
- 7. What South Island three-day event started as a way for Tim Wallis to show his private collection?
- 8. Where would you wear espadrilles?
- 9. What type of creature is a taipan?
- 10. Who had hit songs in the 1980s with It’s a Sin and Always On My Mind?

CROSSWORD

23. Appal, 24. Gilt, 26. Aloli.
18. Worldwide, 19. Gastric, 21. Linger,
9. Armpt, 15. Centipede, 17. Godfather,
5. Hound, 6. Alligator, 7. Stint, 8. Legally,
Down: 2. Relevance, 3. Sprat, 4. Regularly,
28. On ice, 29. Collector’s item.
22. Shaking, 25. Abandon, 27. Replenish,
16. Right away, 19. Green-eyed, 20. Rural,
Grueiling, 12. Pivotal, 13. Digital, 14. Tonic,
Across: 1. Dress rehearsal, 10. Ruler, 11.

SUDOKU



Energy trust hits 600 heat pumps

Maru Energy Trust has installed its 600th free heat pump – along with insulation, in a house in Tūrangi last month.

There was no cost to the homeowner, with Maru picking up the \$541 cost.

Maru team leader Renee Parkes said, along with the 600 heat pumps, Maru has now insulated more than 1220 homes across the King Country since Maru was established by The Lines Company (TLC) in 2018.

TLC remains a major supporter of the Trust which also receives funding from the government, King Country Trust and Ōtorohanga District Council.

Since inception, Maru has insulated 485 Ōtorohanga-Waitomo homes and installed 250 heat pumps.

In Ruapehu District, Maru has insulated 453 homes and installed 206 heat pumps. More than 280 Turangi homes have been insulated and 144 heat pumps installed.

Parkes said Maru's biggest challenge was working within government criteria, which meant only owner-occupied homes qualified for help.

"A lot of whānau are renting their home, and unfortunately rented homes just don't qualify," Renee said.

"We're also geographically limited to working within TLC's network area. However, if we do come across families living in cold homes outside of the network who need help, we can sometimes match them with other agencies for assistance."

Renee said research from Te Whatu Ora showed emphatically that good housing is a huge contributor to good health.

"People living in warm, dry homes are less susceptible to illness, so are less likely to miss school or work because they are sick. No-one wants sick tamariki and nor do we want our kaumatua struggling," Renee said.

"Homes that are insulated and heated are warmer, drier and importantly, have lower power bills. Those are things we want all local families to benefit from."

With the worst of winter now gone, Renee said Maru will be pushing hard over spring to get the word out and encourage people to contact them.

"We'd love to be busy over the summer months installing heat pumps and insulation in time for next winter. We'd love people to just reach out and have a chat. The worst thing we can say is 'no' so there's nothing to lose."



Maru team leader Renee Parkes wants people to reach out to see if their homes qualify for free insulation and heat pumps.

ADVERTORIAL

Realtors helping first home buyers take the next step

Bayleys Ruapehu is inviting aspiring homeowners to a free First Home Buyers Seminar Series designed to help people better understand the home buying process and gain the confidence to take their first steps into the property market.

The two-part seminar will be held at the Raetihi Cosmopolitan Club from 6pm to 7.30pm on Wednesday 30 September and Wednesday 7 October.

Home ownership continues to be an important milestone for many New Zealanders. Bayleys Principal and Sales Manager Michaela Vaughan says education is one of the most important tools available to first home buyers.

"Buying your first home can feel overwhelming, especially when you're navigating mortgages, KiwiSaver, deposits, legal requirements and the property market. Our goal is to provide practical information and expert guidance to help people make informed decisions and feel more confident about taking their next step."

The first session will provide an overview of the home-buying journey, covering mortgages, KiwiSaver, deposits, property ownership structures and the legal aspects of purchasing a home. Guest speakers Natalie Sara from Vega Mortgages and Andrew Thomas from Treadwell Gordon will share their expertise.

The second session will focus on preparing for home ownership, including budgeting, managing finances, understanding the offer process and what to expect when it's time to buy. Attendees will also have the opportunity to take part in a Q&A with the Bayleys team.

"There are some great opportunities for first home buyers across the Ruapehu District. Some people may not realise that home ownership could be within reach for them, or know what options are available to help them take that first step. Right here in the Ruapehu District, buyers can find a range of properties and price points to consider, so it's really awesome to see first home buyers exploring their options and taking those first steps towards home ownership," says Noah Harto, Bayleys.

Currently, approximately 135 residential properties are available for sale across Ohakune, Raetihi and Rangataua, giving buyers a range of options to consider. The median sale price is currently \$415,000.

"One of the interesting trends we're seeing is that almost 40% of our buyers over the last 12 months have come from within our region," Vaughan says. "There is clearly local interest in the market, and for those considering buying their first home, having a conversation with the right professionals early can help them understand what may be possible and put a plan in place."

While many people assume they need a large deposit or extensive knowledge before beginning the process, Vaughan says getting advice early can help buyers better understand their options and the steps they can take towards home ownership.

The seminar series is free to attend, and Bayleys is encouraging people to attend both sessions to gain a comprehensive understanding of the home-buying process.

For more information, contact Bayleys Ruapehu.

Dr Iain reflects on 60 years in medicine

Dr Iain Hague has marked 60 years in medicine recently, with Ruapehu saying they are very lucky to have him as part of their team.

"Although Iain had worked in the Ruapehu region prior to joining us, he came on board with Ruapehu Health Ltd as a permanent part-time doctor in late 2019," says Tracy Mitchell, clinical service manager.

"I started not long after him, and I have to admit that my first thought when he walked through the door was,

"what on earth have we got here?"

"There was the long beard, complete with beads, followed very quickly by a particularly cringe-worthy joke. It was certainly an introduction I wasn't going to forget!"

Six years later, Tracy says she can honestly say she doesn't know how she would have navigated some of the toughest years of her role without Iain.

The post-Covid period brought enormous chal-

Turn to Page 7



Dr Iain Hague, at centre, with his colleagues at Ruapehu Health, from left, Amy McMurray, Tracy Mitchell, Chelsea Owen, Eileen Gotlieb, Simone Edwards, Kyro Wihare-Hansen and Tania Greenfield. Photo: Ruapehu Health.

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Aerial arborists and power firm achieve first live-line helisaw clearance

A team of aerial arborists has completed New Zealand's first live-line 'helisaw' power line corridor clearance in partnership with The Lines Company (TLC), "marking a significant advance in vegetation management" for electricity networks.

The milestone was achieved on TLC's 33kV Kuratau power line through Rotoaira Forest, where vegetation was cleared alongside a high-voltage line without turning power off to customers.

"It shows helisaw operations can be safely used for live-line vegetation management, under suitable conditions, supported by robust planning, specialist aviation capability, suitable forestry growth and careful outage mitigation," says Andrew Peckham, director and co-owner, Aerial Arborists Limited.

The work reduces vegetation risk on a critical section of the Kuratau feeder. By maintaining safe clearances between trees and conductors, TLC and forestry companies can reduce the likelihood of faults, unplanned outages and fire risk, while improving long-term supply resilience.

"Completing this work safely beside a live 33kV line is a landmark achievement for Aerial Arborists, TLC and the wider New Zealand electricity and forestry sectors," said Peckham.

Helisaw systems use purpose-designed saw blades suspended beneath a helicopter to trim trees along power line corridors. The approach is particularly effective in remote, steep or densely forested environments where ground access is difficult.

The achievement builds on Aerial Arborists and TLC's pioneering use of helisaw technology, which won the Innovation in Energy Award at the 2025 New Zealand Energy Excellence Awards. Judges recognised its contribution to arborist safety, lower costs, particularly in remote areas, and more proactive vegetation management.

TLC first trialled helisaw operations in April 2024, clearing approximately 950 metres of radiata pine along a 33kV corridor in just over an hour. Since then, it has become an increasingly important part of TLC's vegetation management approach.

"This is not simply a faster way to cut trees," said Andrew Peckham. "It is a safer, more scalable way to protect electricity infrastructure and keep power on for communities."



The helisaw in operation alongside TLC's live 33kV Kuratau power line in Rotoaira Forest, where vegetation was safely cleared without turning power off to customers.

Ruatiti Road repaired



Ruatiti Road repair has now received engineering sign-off and approval and the road is now open, reports RDC. There are some minor works still to be completed, which will be undertaken under normal traffic management rather than requiring a road closure. RDC urges drivers to continue to drive with care through the work area. Photo: RDC.

Dr Iain reflects on 60 years

From Page 5

lenges to rural primary care, and Iain provided steady support, experience and humour.

"Iain has played an important role in helping us build the team-based approach to primary care we have at RHL. "He is there for the complex medical conditions and diagnostic challenges, while recognising that good primary care is about every member of the team contributing their skills."

He actively supports our nurses to work at the top of their scope and values the way each person helps him do his job, ultimately ensuring patients receive timely care from the right professional.

"For me personally, Iain has been a colleague, a sounding board, a source of wisdom and, at times, probably the person who kept me going when things were particularly tough."

She says after 60 years in medicine, Iain's contribution to the Ruapehu community is difficult to put into words. "We are incredibly fortunate to have his experience and unique character amongst us. He is a deeply respected and valued member of our RHL whānau, and we are very grateful that he continues to be part of our team."

Iain's story

Born in Burnley, United Kingdom, Hague recalled the first time he wanted to become a doctor.

"We had to have our yellow fever, cholera, typhoid, smallpox injections and there was a nice young doctor who had just started there that did it," he said.

"I thought it was a pretty cool thing with these needles and said 'when I grow up, I'm going to be a doctor' and I was never allowed to forget it, really."

Hague went to medical school at Sheffield University and worked for a couple of years in the United Kingdom before moving to New Zealand for "a sense of adventure" in 1973.

Since arriving in New Zealand, he has worked in Whakatāne, Kawerau, Edgumbe, Dargaville, Pāpāmoa and Raetihi.

He established his own practice in Edgumbe in 1975 and Pāpāmoa in 1983, both still operating.

In Edgumbe, he quickly became overwhelmed by the number of patients.

"Everybody grumbles about the lack of doctors but there was even less in those days," he said.

"Pretty soon, I was seeing 60 or 70 people a day – I think my personal record was one Monday, I saw 120 patients."

Training GPs

He was involved in training GPs and was Waikato regional director for some time before spending 13 years in Western Australia, looking after rural GPs and working in emergency departments.

He moved back to New Zealand to look after his wife and started work at Ruapehu Health, where he has been for the past six years.

Hague said he enjoyed rural health more because it challenged him to "deal with a whole range of things".

"You see more interesting medicine and you feel that maybe you've done more good that way," he said.

"If you're in a city, there are specialists so it's very easy to just refer things along, but when you live in rural areas, you have to deal with it."

The 78-year-old said he had been in the profession for so long because of dedication.

"I was always going to be a doc and, one way or another, that's the way it's been."

The biggest changes he had noticed included people's expectations, increased availability of procedures and technological advances.

Gateway to money

"The thing that I've found the hardest in medicine is that we are the gateway to money for a lot of people, either ACC or Winz," he said.

"When I first came to New Zealand, people were harder up but there was more acceptability."

He said increased public funding had been good but had led to people being reliant on a doctor's certificate for their income.

"It's hard because I might say 'you've been off work for six months, my role is not just to ensure the certificate, my role is to get you well again'," Hague said.

Hague felt the medical world was challenging.

"The expectations now, universities seem to spend more time worrying about high IQs and they are not necessarily the people that are best for looking at people at a ground level," Hague said.

"That's increasingly led to the difficulties getting young doctors to work in rural areas."

"It's not just in New Zealand. When I was working as medical director in Australia, it was the same issue, trying to get young Australians into rural was very difficult."

Hague was concerned by the development of AI because it might decrease the need for people to see a doctor.

"I've got a reasonable amount of knowledge in my head but I'm not a computer that can tune into all of the computers in the world."

"I think there'll always be roles for nurses because somebody's got to have their hands on a human."

He said the way to attract more doctors to rural areas was "one of those \$60 million questions".

"Everything has been tried to get young doctors, during their training, to work in rural areas on the grounds that they are more likely to go back but it hasn't really worked out as well," he said.

"When I was a medical student, the state gave you a grant and your fees were free; now there's no grant and you're charged fees."

"Surprise, surprise, Australia pays twice as much, England pays twice as much to young doctors and nurses so, even though we train these guys, they end up in significant debt and often go where the money is."

"I would not be surprised if that issue of getting young doctors into practice in rural areas will remain difficult unless there is significantly more funding."

This article, from 'Iain's story' onwards, is reprinted from the Whanganui Chronicle.

Ruapehu Lions chip in for rescue chopper crew fitness



Palmerston North Grassroots Helicopter crew now have a new exercise treadmill to help them keep in shape in between rescue missions, thanks to a donation from Ruapehu Lions, because their old one was ready for the tip. "When the crew are on call, they are unable to leave the hangar to go out for a run or any exercise, so this is a great addition for their well being and stamina," says the chopper crew. The chopper is one of the machines that regularly flies into the southern Ruapehu District and the Tongariro National Park. Pictured at the chopper hangar are, from left, Kathryn Greenwood, Lions president, Bob Norling and Fred Collett. At right: chopper crewmembers with their new treadmill. Photos: Ruapehu Lions.



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New citizens welcomed

Ruapehu welcomed seven people from five countries becoming New Zealand citizens at a ceremony in the Taumarunui Council Chamber last week.

The new citizens, originally from the Philippines, South Africa, China, India and the United Kingdom, were joined by family and friends for the occasion.

Each took the formal step of either swearing allegiance to King Charles III, King of New Zealand, or making an affirmation of citizenship before the mayor Weston Kirton, who represented the New Zealand Government.

Local iwi Ngāti Hauā supported the ceremony.

Kirton said the official swearing-in must follow a strict protocol, but the involvement of local iwi and tikanga Māori gives our Citizenship Ceremony's a special Ruapehu character.

"Becoming a New Zealand citizen is a significant milestone," he said.

"Many of these people have already lived here for years, but it is still a very special day in their lives.

"It was also great to have Year 8 students from St Patrick's School attend as special guests."

Kirton said New Zealand's growing diversity strengthened the country's resilience and added to the vibrancy of its society.

"People who leave their home countries often have many options.

"We all benefit when they choose to build their future in Aotearoa New Zealand and we welcome them as new citizens as part of our Ruapehu community."



From left, Graham Bell – Ngāti Hauā, Vandanaben Patel (India), Dantes Mangubat (Philippines), Aileen Adra (Philippines), Lynsey Slack (United Kingdom), Weston Kirton, Shelley Oliver (South Africa), Catherine Nicholls (United Kingdom), Ying Miao (China), Whaea Jackie Cash, Moira Huch – Ruapehu District Council. Photo: RDC.

Ohakune squash

Results from the final round of Ohakune Squash Club's Thursday interbusiness: In pool one Baboon beat Rabbit 12-7, Eagle beat Potty Mouths 14-1, Crab beat Watlings 17-1 and Deer got 8 points for the bye. In pool two Fatz Oysters beat Frog 17-1, Peacock beat Goat 12-4, Alpaca beat Orange Choc Chip 12-6 and Horse got 8 points for the bye. In pool three Kiwi beat Ibex 9-6, Lion beat Octopus 17-2, Jaguar beat Moose 12-5 and Narwhal got 8 points for the bye. Final points were close to the end. Pool one: Eagle 87, Baboon 73, Crab 68, Deer 66, Potty Mouths 55, Rabbit 46 and Watlings 41. Pool two: Fatz Oysters 92, Goat 78, Frog 68, Alpaca 66, Peacock 58, Orange Choc Chip 41 and Horse 39. Pool three: Lion 82, Kiwi 74, Narwhal 71, Ibex 63, Moose 60, Octopus 51 and Jaguar 42. Congrats to the three pool winners Eagle, Fatz Oysters and Lion.

The next round of club competitions are club champs. The first round of these starts the week of 12-15 October with graded divisions. There are then three further weeks culminating in some new doubles divisions in the final week. Entries can be done online via mysquash or on the signup sheets at the club. Draws will depend on entry numbers with all final matches scheduled for the Thursday of that week.



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FUNERAL NOTICE

BROWN, PAMELA (PAM) ISOBEL NOELINE NĒE RICKEY:

On 15 September 2026, passed away at Hospice Marlborough, Blenheim, at 92 years of age. Loved wife of the late Deryck. Much loved mother and mother-in-law of Andrea; Campbell and Rachael; and a treasured Gran of Alexandra and Olivia. Messages to the Brown family c/- Cloudy Bay Funeral Services PO Box 9, Blenheim 7240 or www.cloudybayfunerals.co.nz. A private family farewell has taken place followed by a private cremation.

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6-9-1938 – 25-9-2023. Kia ora whānau, it is with love and gratitude that we warmly invite you to join us for the unveiling of our dearly loved and deeply missed Husband, Dad, Koro, and Pops, **Terangitapu Wirihana Wilson (Rangi Pai)**. The unveiling will be held at Tiorangi Marae on Saturday, 26 September 2026 at 11am. We would be honoured to have you there with us as we come together to remember, celebrate, and pay tribute to his life and legacy. Nau Mai, Haere Mai.

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Ruapehu Mayor Weston Kirton

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

MEETINGS

The following meetings of Horizons Regional Council (Livestreamed) will be held during **October 2026** in the Tararua Room, Regional House, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North, unless otherwise advised:

Wednesday, 7 October

1.00pm Regional Council

Tuesday, 20 October

10.00am Passenger Transport Committee

Wednesday, 28 October

9.30am Regional Council

Should Members of the public wish to speak at Meetings, they are advised to phone 0508 800 800.

M J McCartney

CHIEF EXECUTIVE



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

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES FOR PEAK 2 POWDERKEG 2026



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

Saturday 26th September 2026

Ohakune Mountain Road, 04:00PM to 07:00PM:

Closure from the Tūroa Ski Area upper carpark to the intersection with Mangawhero Terrace. Uphill traffic restricted from 4.00pm and downhill traffic from 4.30pm.

Thames Street, 04:00PM to 07:00PM:

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 Ohakune Mountain Road closure will be implemented in stages as noted above. This allows road users to travel up the mountain before the event and provides time for people to leave Tūroa Ski Area before downhill traffic is restricted.

Further event details are available via Pure Tūroa's events webpage.

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.

Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board

6PM, Thursday 1 October 2026

Council Chambers, Ayr Street, Ohakune

Risk & Assurance Committee

11AM, Monday 12 October 2026

Council Chambers, Huia Street, Taumarunui

Taumarunui-Ōhura Community Board

5PM, Thursday 15 October 2026

Ōhura & Districts Memorial Hall, 15 Ngarimu Street, Ōhura

Ruapehu District Council

10AM, Wednesday, 28 October 2026

Council Chambers, Ayr Street, Ohakune

MEETING CONTACTS

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

Ruapehu District Council Valuation Rolls

The Valuation Rolls for Ruapehu District Council have been revised by Quotable Value Limited (as the Council's valuation service provider).

The revised Rating Values are effective as at 1 July 2026 and the new notices of valuation will be posted to owners and ratepayers from 7 October 2026. The District Valuation Rolls will be open for public inspection, free of charge, during regular office hours, at the offices of:

Ruapehu District Council
61 Huia Street, Taumarunui 3920

The revised values can be viewed until 13 November 2026.

Objections to the revised valuations must be lodged, in writing or online at www.ratingvalues.co.nz, no later than 13 November 2026.

Objection forms are available from Ruapehu District Council or Quotable Value Limited and should be posted to:

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More information about "Understanding your Rating Value" can be found at www.ratingvalues.co.nz

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Chairman quits after 17 years

Next month Bruce Berry steps down as chairman of the Waimarino County Council having served the Waimarino for the past 17 years.

He was elected in a by-election in 1969 upon the retirement of his father, the late D.J. Berry who had been on the county for 40 years, 33 years of which he had been chairman. The Waimarino County has been a major part of the Berry family life for the past 57 years.

Bruce's grandfather the late Albert Read was also a councillor for the Ohakune riding. Of the 17 years Bruce has been on the county he was chairman for nine years and deputy-chairman for the six years before that.

He was determined when elected as chairman to be a leader but not a dictator. His endeavour was to encourage councillors to become involved, accept responsibility and work as a team. Many of the achievements of the council over the past years have been as a result of this policy.

Bruce became chairman on the threshold of change in the Waimarino with major developments in forestry and tourism. He was soon to become involved in negotiations with Winstone Afforestation Ltd and Winstone Samsung Industries Ltd. A.H.I. were successful in obtaining a licence to develop the Turoa Skifields and the county were very much involved in these developments.

Bruce was instrumental in forming from those involved with the Turoa side of the mountain, the Ohakune Mountain Road Committee working as a decision-making body in the interests of the Ohakune Mountain Road. Through his and the

The combined efforts of Turoa Skifields Ltd, Lands and Survey and the county are evident in the road access which has a good chance of being completely



Bruce Berry.

tar sealed within the next two years. Negotiations with Winstone's also resulted in a favourable contribution being made to the county for roading.

During Bruce's chairmanship the county has been heavily committed to a bridge renewal programme. A good subsidy rate, currently at 63 per cent from N.R.B., has enabled the county to complete almost all bridges to a class 1 loading classification.

Parapara

Bruce was an inaugural member of the Wanganui United Council and has served as Waimarino County representative since. He has been a member of the number 8 District Roads Council for nine years and was a deputy member for six years prior. This gave him the opportunity to continually push for improvement work to be done on the Parapara highway. For six years he was the Waimarino combined district civil defence controller.

"Over the past few years many changes have taken place within the local government scene which have involved councillors devoting a lot of their time and efforts.

"It has been a pleasure to serve the county with the calibre of men who have sat at the council table," he said.

"Had it not been for the county I would not have made many of the friendships I now have. It has also given me opportunities I would never have had such as meeting royalty, prime ministers and many other dignitaries."

"Being a councillor is a responsible position to hold as many resolutions that are passed are enforceable and affect people - and that requires wisdom and understanding," he said.

As Bruce steps down he is pleased with what has been achieved and the present financial position of the county.

"I am a strong advocate in that local government is by local people, for local people, and there should not be any central government policy that stifles voluntary commitment to serve on local government.

"The Waimarino County Council is a good example of effective local government by those willing to serve the community."

"I wish the incoming chairman and council continued success."



School trip cheers

Raetihi School's room 12 senior class cheer as their bus takes them away for a week's exchange trip to Havelock North where they will be billeted with children from Havelock North Intermediate School. The school's other senior class went on a similar trip to Tokoroa.

New kohanga reo building opened at Maungarongo Marae

Lit only by the light of moon and starts the new Kohanga Reo building at the Maungarongo Marae opened its doors in a dawn ceremony at 5.30am last Saturday morning.

Over 200 people gathered to watch the ceremony which began with prayers and song to the spirits of the building, and a blessing for the elaborate carving on the front of the building.

Kaumatu Matiu Mareikura wearing a ceremonial cloak, and Raana-Ellen Mareikura, 8, led celebrants and visitors into the building where prayers were offered, and a blessing for the company.

Mass was led by Maori missionary Father Neil Wilson, who was accompanied by Father Vella and Father Durning.

Visitors and members of the marae sat on the carpeted floor, surrounded by the many tukutuku and kowhaiwhai patterns adorning the walls.

Fatal accident

A 17-year old Whangehu teenager was killed when the vehicle she was travelling in left the road half a kilometre south of the old Horopito School on State Highway 4 at about 5pm on Sunday.

Frances Mary Kumeroa was thrown clear of the vehicle and died of her injuries shortly after the accident.

Two of the three other occupants of the vehicle were uninjured, although a pregnant woman passenger was taken to Wanganui Hospital with minor injuries.

It was a moving moment when the youngsters of Te Kohanga Teo addressed the assembly in Maori.

Following mass, Mayor Bill Taylor, unveiled the plaque signifying the official opening of the classroom, that will serve as a place of learning for the children and adults of Maungarongo Marae.

"Uncle George" - George Waretini, explained to the congregation the significance of the intricately carved centre pole of the building, and the picture of birds sacred to the Maori.

The group then moved along the road to the home of Graham and Janey Dixon where a ceremony to bless a pair of carvings and the entranceway to the Dixon's landscaped scenic garden, was performed.

Joe Waretini, a past resident of Ohakune, unveiled the ornate carved entrance bearing the name Te Hono, representing the spiritual and physical union of a group.

An action song was performed by a group who had travelled from as far as Invercargill to attend the rare ceremony.

Mr Dixon addressed the assembly and fought emotion as he spoke of his family's strong Maori ties and their bond with the marae and its people.

A member of the Dixon family thanked all those people who had come to share the moment, which is memorable in the history of the Maungarongo Marae.



Carver George Waretini explains the significance of centre pole carvings outside the new kohanga reo building.

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Turoa skiers line up for a 'Le Mans' style ski race start.

Skiers race for beer

Fifty skiers lined up at the top of the High Noon T-Bar last Wednesday for a Le Mans style start in the first-ever Peak to Powderkeg multi-sports race. At the sound of the starting gun the competitors ran to their skis, put them on then hurtled down the mountain to the carpark for the first change over point. A wide range of skiing abilities was evi-

dent with the first stage times ranging from about 90 seconds to several minutes. By this stage Tony Munroe was in the lead, which he held to the change over to bicycles at the 12 kilometre mark on the Ohakune Mountain Road. He led almost all of the way to the finish line at the Powderkeg Bar and Restaurant, only to be pipped at the post by Len

Smyth. However Munroe made up the time in the final stage of the event - the sculling of a glass of beer, taking the Peak to Powderkeg title.

Beth Melville was the first of the many women competitors home, taking an eight-day Turoa lift pass and a Powder-Zone voucher. There was some controversy over the first place, with Munroe handed a beer and Smyth having to fetch his own. However after the dust had settled both were content to settle with the result. Munroe took

away a 1992 Turoa Season Pass, gave Smyth his Powderhorns voucher prize, which when added to his second place prizes, made the number two place almost as valuable as first.

Changes to the race next year are planned, with a women's division, a better finish line set-up and possibly a limit to mountain bikes only in the Mountain Road section. Also suggested was the replacement of champagne for beer for the women competitors in the sculling section.



Jean City

The Bulletin's report on the first-ever Peak to Powderkeg race, in 1991. the event is on again this weekend and organisers urge people to get registered soon at www.pureturoa.nz

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Auction



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9 4 2 2

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Blue skies again for NISSSC

Turoa was once again the host skifield for the North Island Secondary Schools Skiing Competition this week, with the giant slalom running on Monday, as well as the slopestyle. "Big thanks to the Turoa crew for getting the course ready bright and early," says Pure Turoa.

They also thanked organiser Bevan Thompson and the NISSSC volunteers for "putting on such a great event for the kids".



ABOVE: NISSSC giant slalom action. BELOW: slopestyle in the terrain park. Photos: Holly Deadman.



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