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Tangiwai upgrade under way
P2



Iwi blasts Horizons P3



Train brings new sign
P5



Rivers, and critters, celebrated
P7

Raetihi water notices ‘admin, not physical’: RDC

Ruapehu District Council was issued abatement and infringement notices for overdue Raetihi water plans, one required almost six years ago.

But the plans have now been lodged with Horizons Regional Council, ahead of the 31 October deadline.

In the abatement notice sent to the council on 3 September, Horizons consents monitoring officer Caitlin Perry said four plans had to be prepared and submitted, including a municipal water management plan.

That was meant to be submitted within six months of Horizons granting resource consent to abstract up to 1685cu m of water a day from the Makotuku River for Raetihi’s water treatment plant.

RDC’s communications manager Paul Wheatcroft said the issue was an administration matter and not a physical issue with the supply.

“This is a sensitive community - political issue. It touches resource consents, property rights, people’s livelihoods, long-standing agreements and our obligations as a consent holder,” said Wheatcroft.

“The raw water line crosses several private properties before it reaches the Water Treatment Plant. Many of those landowners tap into the line for stock water and other farming use. That take is unmeasured, and at times it is estimated it may account for up to 30% of the consented limit. Because we can’t measure it, we can’t report our total take accurately — which is why our reporting has been delayed.”

He said these landowners consider they hold historic rights to take water, given in return for allowing the line to cross their land.

‘Landowners tap into the line for stock water and other farming use. That take is unmeasured, and at times it is estimated it may account for up to 30% of the consented limit.’

“These arrangements go back many years.” He said RDC has tried to resolve this before without success.

“We have a new water team who are planning a public meeting with all affected parties, including iwi, to work towards a solution.”

Meters may be a response to water take management, but that would need to be agreed amongst stakeholders.

Safe water

Council chief executive Clive Manley said that Horizons was “doing their job”.

“First of all, we are providing safe water,” he told the Whanganui Chronicle earlier in September.

“Horizons are saying, quite rightly, ‘You are not managing the abstraction right’.

“We are working through it, and we have a draft nearly ready to go through.”

The \$2.5 million plant, built on a hill overlooking the town, opened in 2018, with water piped 7.4km from the river using gravity pressure.

A municipal reticulation network leakage management report, low flow abstraction statement, and water balance summary and network leakage report also need to be submitted.

Manley said the council knew how much water it abstracted from the river.

“But that’s not necessarily the [amount of] water that gets to the treatment plant.

“There are a number of private take-offs on the route, which are legal but not metered. This is what is causing the complication.”

Manley said there had been ongoing

Turn to Page 2

Jackson's back to win Peak to Keg



Jackson Campbell took a family visit back to Ohakune from the King Campbell home in Wanaka, as a chance to take part in the re-started Peak to Powderkeg multi-sport race on Saturday, supported by his wife Bidi and kids Tommy (at front) and Sully. Jackson was a regular participant until about 2015, often finishing in the top three. But this time he took the top spot. Photo: Jude Chevin.

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RUAPEHU BULLETIN 30 September 2026 • 1

Ruapehu working with other councils as new planning system takes shape

The staged replacement of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) is underway, with the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill passing their third readings in Parliament last week. Once they receive Royal Assent, the new laws will replace the RMA over time.

Ruapehu District Council says that, for most people, there will be no immediate change in how they interact with their council on planning matters. Existing RMA plans and processes will largely remain in place

while the new national and regional planning framework is developed.

But behind the scenes, Ruapehu has been working with Manawātū-Whanganui councils preparing for the new system.

“One of the biggest changes is the introduction of regional spatial planning,” says RDC.

“Councils will jointly develop one Regional Spatial Plan for Manawātū-Whanganui, setting the high-level strategic direction for how the region

grows and changes over the next 30 years.”

An interim secretariat has been established to help co-ordinate and support this work. The interim secretariat brings together expertise from councils across the region, along with a central government representative from the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport (MCERT). The focus in these early stages is about how the councils will work together to deliver a plan.

Horizons Regional Mayoral Forum chair and Horowhenua mayor Bernie Wanden says working together will be critical as councils transition to the new system.

“There’s a lot of work ahead, but if we get this right, there’s a real opportunity to take a long-term view of where and how growth happens across our region, while protecting our natural environment,” said Wanden.

“A real strength of the region is how our councils work together. We already have strong relationships in place, and that gives us a solid foundation for developing a plan that works for Manawātū-Whanganui as a whole.”

He says the Manawātū-Whanganui Regional Spatial Plan will help answer some of the big questions facing the region: Where could our communities grow? What infrastructure will be needed? How should our transport connections develop? What environmental values and constraints need to be considered? And how do we make these decisions across council boundaries rather than in isolation?

The move from the RMA to the new system will happen in stages. The Government will establish national policy direction and standards. At the same time, councils, with input from key agencies and mana whenua, will begin developing the Regional Spatial Plan. This will include opportunities for community involvement and a formal public submissions process.

New land-use and natural environment plans will then follow. Territorial authorities will prepare land-use plans for their districts, while the regional council will prepare a land-use plan for the coastal marine area and a natural environment plan for the region.

“There is still significant work to be done before communities see major changes. Councils will keep communities updated as the regional programme develops, including when and how people can have their say.”

Formal public consultation on the draft Regional Spatial Plan is expected in 2028.

Slab starts Tangiwai project



Anton Fraser from RFL puts the finishing touches on the concrete slab for the new shelter for visitors to the Tangiwai Rail Disaster Memorial – part of a \$150,000 project to upgrade the memorial site, led by Ruapehu Lions. The shelter is to be in honour of the families and others affected by the 1953 rail disaster that saw 151 people lose their lives. The shelter will also feature a deck where people can sit and view the memorial site and the river, towards Mt Ruapehu. There will be information panels and a path leading from the shelter to the memorial. Project leader Bob Norling said they have so far raised \$135,000, some of the money coming from a Pride of Place grant. A 4WD safari next year is also running, with funds to go to the project (see separate story). The project is a joint effort including Ruapehu Lions, Ngāti Rangī and the Ruapehu District Council. Photo: Glyn Hubbard.

Ruapehu Events & What’s On

- SEPTEMBER 2026
- 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.

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Raetihi water notice

From Page 1

discussions between the council and Horizons.

“But we haven’t formally responded to them. They are perfectly correct.

“This is a legal process which we are required to adhere to.”

“This is not about a lack of will. It’s about historical things that need to be worked through.

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 Rangī 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 Kirtton, enquiries to 06-385-8364 or 07-895-8188.

Owhango-National Park Community Board:

Peter Zimmer - Chairperson 027 479 1928;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 4726; Brian Portland 027 558 5585; Oriwira 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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Amalgamation delay suits Ruapehu: Kirton

The Government's decision to take more time to work through the complex issues involved in council amalgamation suits Ruapehu, claims the mayor Weston Kirton.

"I understand why some mayors are frustrated after working to a tight Head Start deadline, only for the timeframe to be extended. But with future reform inevitable, the work we have done will not be wasted," Kirton says.

Ruapehu was unable to submit a unitary authority amalgamation proposal, so it entered the Government's "Back Stop" process. It is now among the councils awaiting details of how the Back Stop process will work.

"Back Stop was ultimately the only pathway available to us, but we also believe it was the best one for Ruapehu. It gives us the time and space to work through the issues properly with everyone involved," says Kirton.

Council spent three months discussing possible reforms with the community, iwi partners and neighbouring councils. Those conversations showed that there is no simple answer and that different communities have different priorities.

"It was interesting to note Local Government Minister Simon Watts' statement that none of the Head Start proposals had the unanimous support of their region, and that there were important gaps to fill."

Fairness a key issue

He says there is need for fair and effective representation with streamlined governance.

"That is a key issue for small rural councils like Ruapehu.

"Any new structure must give our communities a meaningful voice in decisions that affect them."

RDC had advised the Minister that it remained committed to reform. It would continue working

with other councils in the Horizons region to explore regional, sub-regional and cross-boundary options, with further community and iwi engagement and any required formal consultation to follow.

"Whatever structure is proposed, we need clear evidence of what it would mean for the people who pay for council services.

"Ruapehu ratepayers are already under significant financial pressure.

"Reform must do more than change council boundaries: it needs to show how services can be delivered more efficiently, how costs would be shared fairly, and whether it would make rates more affordable for our communities."

Cost

Kirton has said that RDC has so far spent \$50,000 on the process, hiring a consultant.

"This [pause] is not a surprise. It's basically

what we expected, and the uncertainty from a community point of view is still high," he said, adding that other councils are probably frustrated that nothing has been resolved.

Rushed

"They were rushed through a very quick consultation period to get to nowhere.

"And the Government has kicked the can down the road anyway."

Regardless of the decision, there was a lot on the council's plate, he said.

"Water [services] is coming out of councils, meaning revenue will change.

"That's going to make small local authorities like Ruapehu very small. But the overheads remain.

"We can only hope a unitary authority of sorts is actually worked through to the 2031 election cycle for local government."

Iwi blasts Horizons: Pue cleared of conflict

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporter

Ngāti Rangi iwi has delivered a public dressing-down to Manawātū-Whanganui's regional council over its handling of conflict-of-interest complaints.

The iwi says Horizons Regional Council damaged both its relationship with the iwi and the reputation of one of its young leaders when it launched an investigation into councillor Elijah Pue.

The investigation examined complaints about alleged potential conflicts of interest arising from Pue's Ngāti Rangi governance roles, but the ensuing report found no grounds for concern.

The iwi said the decision to commission an independent investigation was disproportionate; that Ngāti Rangi should have been consulted: and that the process damaged the mana and reputation of both Pue and the iwi.

The report was conducted by Jonathan Salter, of law firm Simpson Grierson, and presented to council in late August.

At Tuesday's council meeting in Palmerston North, Te Tōtarahoe o Paerangi chair Tomairangi Mareikura said the process "cast a shadow" over Ngāti Rangi and an emerging iwi leader.

She said Ngāti Rangi was disappointed it was not consulted, given its relationship agreement with Horizons and statutory relationships surrounding Ngā Wai Tōtā.

"We expected Horizons to be more discerning before actively engaging public debate on a complaint which Salter found lacked any basis.

"His conclusions that Elijah acted appropriately, declared his conflict, sought advice and complied with the legal obligations as an elected official confirm this definitively."

Besmirching

Pou ārahi/chief executive Helen Leahy described the process as "the besmirching of the reputation and integrity of the iwi and of one of our significant leaders".

She said the concern was not that the council had scrutinised the issue, but how it had chosen to do so.

"This was not just a standard review of procedure."

Leahy also questioned why two complaints, including an anonymous complaint, had been sufficient to warrant an independent investigation when neither was a formal code-of-conduct complaint.

She said the process had raised concerns about transparency, natural justice and whether an anonymous complaint was being given disproportionate weight.

Leahy also said councillors' interest in Ngā Wai Tōtā and the legislation governing it was a public interest shared across the council, rather than something unique to Pue.

"Elevating this issue into an investigation, unfairly exposing a young Māori councillor – the subject of the complaint – failing to provide the iwi with the opportunity for the right of reply, and prioritising ratepayer spending on the concerns of an anonymous individual, without



also exposing the substance of that complaint, all falls short of the standards that we would expect to see of local government."

Resolution criticised

Nancy Tuaine, speaking in her capacity as an uri (descendant) of Ngāti Rangi, criticised the council's resolution following the investigation, saying it had merely "noted" the findings rather than explicitly accepting them.

She called for the council to recognise that Pue had not breached conflict-of-interest requirements.

Councillor Te Kenehi Teira acknowledged the council had shortcomings and said Horizons needed to improve how it dealt with iwi, particularly those with specific relationships with the council under legislation.

"How at some stage can we rebuild the confidence and the trust?" he asked.

Councillor Wiremu Te Awe Awe said the episode was "a step in the wrong direction" for a relationship that had previously been good, although not perfect.

Accountability

Horizons chair Nikki Riley defended the investigation, saying the process had been difficult but necessary.



Horizons councillor Elijah Pue was cleared in an independent investigation following two complaints about alleged potential conflicts of interest arising from his governance roles with Ngāti Rangi. Photo supplied.

"It was conducted transparently and robustly. It upheld public accountability," she said.

She acknowledged the impact on Pue and Ngāti Rangi and said Horizons would formally reflect on the process.

Riley told Local Democracy Reporting there was no intent to cause offence to Ngāti Rangi while investigating the complaints.

"Horizons Regional Council takes complaints from members of the public

seriously. This is especially true when complaints raise concerns of public trust and confidence in Horizons due to alleged wrongdoing by a councillor.

"Maintaining public trust and confidence is important, given the important role Horizons has when it comes to matters such as regulatory management, biosecurity, climate resilience and emergency management.

"When complaints are raised which

Turn to Page 4



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Letters

Sorting snow

• I was thrilled reading Shaun Fay's letter about the future of skiing at Ruapehu. I remember putting on trye chains at the Chateau for the Bruce Road. My Dad was a member of Ruapehu Ski Club, then helped build Pinnacle Ski Club. I would ski the Staircase T bar and the second chair till they shut and then go back to Pinnacles.

In 1967 I was off to Klosters Switzerland to join my friend Robert Palmer, three times NZ ski champ. We were sponsored by NZ ski racing council. Klosters was – open the door, walk 50 metres to the cable car, boots on, skis over your shoulder, top of the cable car, choose which run, through the trees on powder, or take the next lift higher, or hang out at the restaurant café – breathtaking views.

Coming back to New Zealand, I was not going to ski Ruapehu, not after Switzerland, Italy, Austria, France.

Yes, the snow is receding higher and higher, natural climate variations over hundreds of years, not climate change.

But the major problem for New Zealand is the controversy over who owns what: iwi or DOC or ratepayers, the rules and regulations. This is creating a standstill until it is sorted.

Personally, I would build a gondola at Tūroa to the top with a fabulous restaurant – winter, summer, forget about skiing.

Ben Mitchell

The economy's backbone

• I must agree with Philip Harvey: the dairy and meat industries are indeed the backbone of New Zealand's economy.

Unfortunately, it is a backbone with chordoma, a runaway multiplication of the spine's bone cells, spinal cancer.

We have had a runaway multiplication of cattle in this country. My grandparents milked one cow, my returned serviceman uncle milked 30 cows on his rehab farm, my cousins had 300 cows each on their farms, and now there are farms

milking more than 2000 cows. The same is occurring world-wide and causing a runaway increase of CH₄, CO₂ and N₂O in the air, worsening our climate disaster every day.

The export of more and more food also assists in feeding more and more people: the world population is now increasing by an extra 1.3 million every week, who occupy about an extra 200 sq km of land, so that about another 20,000 hectares of former food-producing land is being covered by asphalt and concrete every week, while about 350,000 more hectares are lost to erosion and desertification (worldometers.info).

Of course, chordoma cancer eventually results in high pain levels, then death. Runaway climate overheating, runaway population multiplication, and runaway loss of food-producing land is going to do the same.

Climate scientists recently predicted that if urgent steps are not taken, economic growth will reverse at the end of this decade, and that our globalised consumer society will have consumed itself by the end of the next decade (tinyurl.com/matenga). Haiti gives us a preview (tinyurl.com/Haiti-tanuku).

Since Philip Harvey doesn't want such urgent steps taken, I can only assume that he and other right-wing supporters are all very old and have no young family members.

John Archer

Who pays

• Yes, I am concerned about the future of the Waimarino – basic infrastructure, roads, water, public toilets etc., the mayor Western Kirton tells us repeatedly, the rates paid by the 8000 residents is not enough to cover the basic needs of our district.

My question is simple, how much of the basic rates does iwi, hapu, ngati ... all of them pay to support this area.

Ben Mitchell

Get retro on the snow this Saturday

It's time to dig through the wardrobe, dust off the old ski gear and get your retro on.

“Join us at Tūroa and Ohakune Junction on Saturday 3 October for a day of vintage vibes, mountain madness and plenty of good old-fashioned community fun,” says Retro Day organiser Paul Steiglbauer.

“Keep an eye out for the Retro Police on the mountain — they'll be on patrol throughout the day, handing out ‘spot fines’ for outstanding retro style. There'll also be heaps of spot prizes up for grabs, so the more outrageous your outfit, the better,” says Steiglbauer.

“Then bring the whole crew down to The Kitchen, Ohakune Junction from 3pm–7pm to keep the party going.”

There will be live music and DJs, good food and drinks, retro air guitar competition, the famous chocolate éclair eating competition, games, prizes and plenty of laughs.

“And of course, a huge shout-out to the awesome local businesses, brands and supporters who help make Retro Day happen — Tūroa, Head, Marmot, Scott, Vuarnet, TCB, SLR, Ski Shed, Ohakune Hot Tubs, Powderkeg, La Pizzeria and more.”



Retro fan Doogs Drinkwater.

Iwi blasts Horizons

From Page 3

directly question Horizons' public trust and confidence, we have an obligation to investigate them promptly and fulsomely.”

Riley said the complaints were made to her and Cr Gordon McKellar before being passed to the chief executive for independent investigation.

“While a complaint was treated anonymously, it was a valid complaint which required investigation,” Riley said.

“The independent report concluded that Cr Pue acted appropriately and lawfully. He was cleared of any wrongdoing in relation to the matter in question. By noting the findings of the report at the meeting on 25 August,

council accepts those findings and agrees that Cr Pue is cleared of the concerns raised.”

Riley said the concerns raised by Ngāti Rangi, as well as comments made by fellow councillors, had been noted.

“Any next steps, including any review of policies around complaints and investigations, is a matter for council as a whole to consider.”

After the meeting, Pue said: “I hope council learns from this experience and we can move on and do better for the ratepayer.”

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

THE WEEKLY WORKOUT

answers for each puzzle are included on this page

870

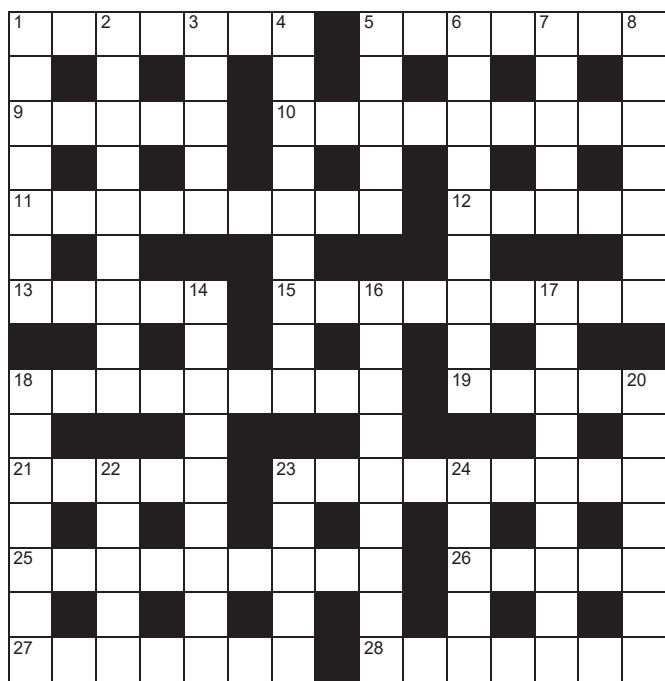
QUICK CROSSWORD

Across

- Run away (colloq) (7)
- No Clue
- Guides for a horse (5)
- Language of dots and dashes (5,4)
- Unfinished business (5,4)
- Island kingdom (5)
- Economise (5)
- Hoard (9)
- Bury (3,2,4)
- Marvellous (5)
- Music genre (5)
- Take back (9)
- Uninformed (2,3,4)
- Correct (5)
- Fellow feeling (7)
- Slumberwear (7)

Down

- Excess (7)
- Strong hostility (9)
- Outdated (5)
- Talk about the past (9)
- Infectious illness (5)
- Passes (9)
- Decorate (5)
- Lift up (7)



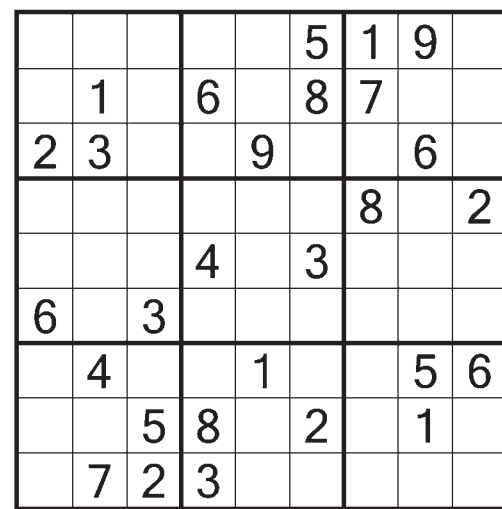
- Advocate (9)
- Forthright (9)
- Tool (9)
- Opponent of technology (7)
- Dregs (7)
- Abdominal exercise (3-2)
- Prepared (5)
- Jargon (5)

THE TOP 10

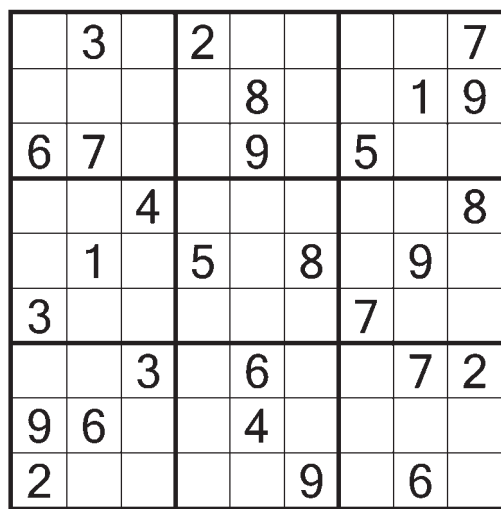
- 1945, 2 Yellow, red, black, blue and green, 3 Wellington, 4 Almonds, 5 Barbie, 6 William Webb Ellis, 7 None, 8 The jet engine, 9 United Future, 10 The Incredible Hulk.

SUDOKU

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



1 MEDIUM 2



HARD

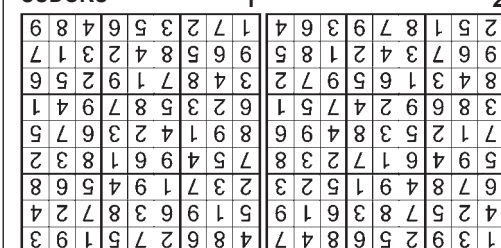
The Top 10

- Were historian Michael King, politician Winston Peters, and comedian David McPhail all born in 1945, 1948, or 1951?
- What colour are the five rings of the Olympic symbol?
- In 1992, Fran Wilde became the first woman mayor of which New Zealand city?
- What are ground to make marzipan?
- Which toy did Aqua sing about?
- Who is the men's Rugby World Cup trophy named after?
- How many Best Director Oscars did Alfred Hitchcock win?
- What type of machinery did Sir Frank Whittle invent?
- What party had only one MP, Peter Dunne, from 2008 to 2017?
- In films, who does scientist Dr David Banner turn into when he becomes angry?

CROSSWORD

- Scarper, 5. Violate, 9. Reins, 10. Morse code, 11. Loose ends, 12. Tonga, 13. Skimp, 15. Stockpile, 18. Lay to rest, 19. Super, 21. Disco, 23. Repossess, 25. In the dark, 26. Amend, 27. Empathy, 28. Nightie.
- Supplies, 2. Antimosity, 3. Passé, 4. Reminisce, 5. Virus, 6. Overtakes, 7. Adorn, 8. Elevate, 14. Proponent, 16. Outspoken, 17. Implement, 18. Luddle, 20. Residue, 22. Sit-up, 23. Ready, 24. Slang.

SUDOKU



Puzzles © The Puzzle Company

Steam Train delivers gift station sign

Train passengers arriving at Ohakune now have an extra way to know where they're getting off, thanks to a new railways-style sign at the station. The sign was a gift from the team at Glenbrook Vintage Railway and Steam Incorporated, delivered by GVR on a train hauled by "the mighty Ab608 'Passchendaele' steam locomotive. "We would like to say a huge thank you to GVR for upgrading our Ohakune Railway Station sign and keeping it in an authentic heritage style," says Bob Norling from Main Trunk Rail Ohakune. "We're forever grateful to see Ohakune's railway history brought back to life." Pictured with the sign are, from left, Tim Kerwin – CEO of GVR and engine driver, Bob Norling, Bruce Thompson, and station occupants Amy Thomson and Janelle Hinch from Opus Fresh. Photo: Glyn Hubbard.



Raetihi temple doors opening for the community

In celebrating their 100th anniversary and the extensive renovation of Taku Whare Tuatahi, Te Pāriha o Raetihi and construction team Kaihanga are opening the temple building site to the community this Saturday.

Whānau are invited to check out the exciting progress to date between 11am-3pm but are being asked to wear covered footwear while they are taking a look in and around the iconic, historic whare whakamoemiti.

The building was originally built by the Methodist Home Mission with Rev George Kirkwood reporting at the time, "the greater part of both June and July was spent on the new church building".

Preeminent Māori architecture expert Dr Deidre Brown's research shares the whare has connections to the Rātana movement from the outset after being first opened by Mere Rikiriki.

"The Whakamoemiti is one of five in Aotearoa built in the style of the main Rātana Temple at Rātana Pā, Whanganui, and is the only one outside of Te Taitokerau (Northland; the others are at Mangamuka, Ahipara, Te Kao and Te Hapua)", Dr Brown said.

"Bill Pehi added the distinctive 'Rātana' bell towers to the original Raetihi church in 1957 and the domes were added in 1958.

"The bells were made with those used in the Ahipara Rātana Whakamoemihi at a foundry in

Auckland in the 1960s."

"Further changes to the interior of the building and the fitting of a whetū mārama to the front gable completed the transformation of the building from a standard simple Christian church to a Rātana temple."

In 1926 the *Whanganui Chronicle* covered the transfer of the building on 12 September.

"Rātana, with a party of thirty, visited Raetihi for the official opening of a Rātana church yesterday.

"There were 400 Māoris [sic] present including visitors from Pipiriki, Karioi, Taumarunui, Parapara and Maunganui-a-te-Ao.

"Rātana, assisted by three apostles including Eastman ... who has the distinction of being the first pakeha apostle admitted to the movement."

A century later, the extensive restoration of Taku Whare Tuatahi represents the culmination of a decade-long journey for whānau determined to protect the nationally significant whare for future generations.

The project would not have been possible without the ongoing support of the community and Sills van Bohemen alongside a substantial funding grants from the Lottery Grants Board Te Puna Tahua, Awhero Nui Trust, Four Regions Trust, the Jonathan Preston Trust, Ruapehu District Council Better Off Fund and Whanganui Community Foundation.



A chance meeting eight years ago led to Aaron Sills (right) and Christina van Bohemen (centre), of Sills van Bohemen Architects, becoming key supporters of the Raetihi Temple restoration project. They were back on site last week for a mahi update from Piha Smith and the Kaihanga construction team ahead of this Saturday's site open day. Photo: Liz Brooker - Tōi Communications

— RUAPEHU —

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Awards

Celebrating the people who make our communities stronger.

NOMINATIONS CLOSING SOON

Ruapehu Citizen of the Year Awards aim to recognise the special people who help to create the type of community we all want to live in and be part of.

If you know someone who:

- **Undertakes voluntary, unpaid work** - going above and beyond the call of duty consistently for no personal gain.
- **Has made a significant contribution over an extended period of time** - unselfish sacrifice of time and resources.
- **Works for the benefit of the community** through participation in a range of activities.

Nomination forms from ruapehudc.govt.nz or pick-up from your local Council office

Queries: please call Kay Kidd on 07 895 8188

RUAPEHU *Spring* **BULLETIN**



OUT NOW!
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THE DISTRICT

DON'T FORGET TO ENTER OUR READER'S COMPETITION ON PAGE 37.

READ IT ONLINE AT WWW.RUAPEHU.INFO

Horizons award regional freshwater community grants

Twelve community projects have been awarded a total of \$200,000 worth of funding through Regional Freshwater Community Grants this year, Horizons Regional Council has announced.

Horizons deputy chair Fiona Gordon says the annual freshwater grants are a meaningful way

Horizons gets behind the community.

“It’s all about supporting our community’s efforts to improve water quality and boost education about caring for our water resources,” says Cr Gordon.

“There are so many individuals, groups and

schools initiating exciting projects each year to create freshwater improvements with positive long-term impacts.

“Council is proud to support these tangible, on-the-ground, local actions through these grants.”

The funding this year was spread across the region, with eight projects from the Manawātū River catchment, including the Tararua area, two from the Whanganui River catchment, one from Horowhenua and one from Rangitikei. The projects range from catchment-scale water quality monitoring programmes to riparian planting, wetland restoration, and community education initiatives.

“Congratulations to all the recipients and thank you for leading these projects. We look forward to seeing the results of your mahi,” says Cr Gordon.

The 12 recipients are: Aokautere School – Shade house for propagating plants; Environment

Network Manawātū – Freshwater futures, connecting young people as kaitiaki of our streams; Feilding High School – Mangakino Stream restoration project; Green Corridors (Range to River) – riparian planting along Turitea Stream; Mangaone West Catchment Group – native planting around the catchment; Pahiatua Golf Club – wetland restoration; Palmerston North Golf Club – Wetland restoration project; Rangitikei River Catchment Collective – MCI Sampling & faecal source tracking investigation; The Eco School – Wonderful Water; The Farm Track Community Group – extension of walking track along Arawhata Stream; Waitahora Landcare Collective (under umbrella of Manawātū River Catchments Collective) – spring to stream project, investigating nutrient levels in spring water; Whanganui Region Catchment Collective – MCI Sampling.

Floral art in Carrot Park



Grandfather of the Ohakune Carrot Dave Scott spied this piece of art at a very special place for him on his walk about his creations. “It’s very nice to see.” His mate Bob Norling agrees. “We need more of this in the park ... maybe an artists’ corner with photos”.

Citizens awards close soon

As of Monday, there were no nominations for the Ruapehu Citizen of the Year Awards for the southern Ruapehu.

“The awards aim to recognise the special people who help to create the type of community we all want to live in and be part of,” says Paul Wheatcroft, Ruapehu District Council communications manager.

Nominations can be for someone who undertakes voluntary, unpaid work – “going above and beyond the call of duty”, consistently for no personal gain; has made a significant contribution over an extended period of time; or works for the benefit of the community through participation in a range of activities.

See advertisement this issue for details on how to nominate someone, or go to ruapehudc.govt.nz or pick-up from local Council offices,

Past award recipients for the Waimarino-Waiouru award: 2024 Donna Journeaux; 2023 Joseph Callaghan; 2022 David Warren Wiari; 2021 No awards presented; 2020 Major Patrick Hibbs; 2019 Glenys Shepherd; 2018 Geoff Anderson; 2017 Jim Turuhia Edmonds; 2016 Bernice Frost; 2015 Jon King; 2014 Tammy Pikari; 2013 Angel Reid; 2012 Christopher Winter; 2011 Rita Kaiwhare; 2010 Errol Brown; 2009 John Compton; 2008 Trish Smart; 2007 Margaret Horne; 2006 Deryk Brown; 2005 Doug Eves.

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World Rivers Day celebrated with tree planting

Each year, Ōwhango Alive celebrates World Rivers Day by planting trees and engaging with a speaker who resonates with the work they do.

Just a bit of light rain fell on the conservation group while they planted out another 100 trees in the Ohinetonga Scenic Reserve, along the banks of the Whakapapa River. The trees were donated by Whanganui River Enhancement Trust and Simone Talbot of Maungaroa Nursery.

Over 60 hardy folk attended the day, meeting at the Whakapapa Bridge to help plant the trees. They then headed up to the Ōwhango Domain Pavilion for a cuppa and to listen to their guest speaker, Alastair Cole, a Palmerston North herpetologist – expert in skinks, lizards and geckos.

“Alastair captivated us all with his information, while showcasing several of his ‘friends’,” said Sally Lashmar from Ōwhango Alive

The friends were: a North Canterbury spotted skink lizard, Duvaucel’s gecko, Wellington green gecko, Southern North Island forest gecko, common skink, rough green gecko, and Nelson green gecko

“There will be more than a few people who are keen to look around for some of these amazing little critters, which are so vulnerable to the many introduced predators,” says Sally.

“Cats, hedgehogs, rats, mice, weasels, stoats and ferrets, just to name a few.”

World Rivers Day is also when Ōwhango Alive launches their annual calendar, featuring photos taken in and around the Ohinetonga Scenic Reserve and Ōwhango village. This year’s calendar includes a photo taken by the winner of the Youth Photo Competition, Jesse Weir.

Sally acknowledged David Robinson, who creates the calendar. The calendars will be available at local markets, the Blue Hill Cafe, or email at owhangoalive@yahoo.com.



Sponsor a step: a chance to support Sky team

The Ohakune Volunteer Fire Brigade Sky Tower Challenge team are bringing a taste of the event back home, running a steps challenge at the Ohakune New World car park on Saturday.

“We climb all 1103 steps of the Sky Tower in full firefighting gear to raise money for Blood Cancer New Zealand,” says team member Louise Tweeddale.

“It’s a pretty tough challenge, but it’s something our Brigade really enjoys being part of.”

She said they will have local businesses and groups taking part, with the opportunity for bystanders to give it a go as well.

For details on how to donate, readers can text Lou on 027-208-7577. A barbecue will be going with sausages and bacon butties for sale.

Alexis from St John Ambulance will be offering blood pressure checks for a donation to the cause.

Ruapehu College held a non-uniform day on Friday, with principal Kris Vine completing the steps to match the donation.

Ruapehu District Council is holding a morning tea with donated steps going toward the teams participating.

This year’s Sky Tower Challenge in May saw OVFB, with the support of the Ohakune Community, raise \$15,000 for Blood Cancer NZ.

“We’d love to see you all get involved, whether that’s donating, sponsoring a friend, or coming down on the day and having a go yourselves. See you there.”

Raetihi Whare Whakamoemiti Building Site Open Day

Saturday 3rd October
11am - 3pm

Keen to check out our restoration mahi? Why not join Koro Robbie, Te Pāriha o Raetihi Komiti & the team from Kaihanga inside the bubble, on site at Raetihi Marae for a little hīkoi around & through our iconic whare

While there will be no active mahi happening on the day, it is still a construction site so please make sure you're wearing covered footwear ngā mihi

Te Pāriha o Raetihi

TEMPLE RESTORATION PROJECT



Ian Murray was one of the many volunteers out planting for World Rivers Day at Ōwhango. At left: one of the critters brought to the day by Alastair Cole. Photos: Ōwhango Alive.

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RUAPEHU BULLETIN 30 September 2026 • 9

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Ruapehu Mayor Weston Kirton

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PROPOSED SALE OF COUNCIL VEHICLE BY PUBLIC TENDER

Ruapehu District Council is offering for public tender:
Hitachi Ex-60 Excavator

Ruapehu District Council is offering an HITACHI EX-60 excavator for sale on an "as is, where is" basis. More details and photos can be found on the RDC Website

Interested buyers are encouraged to inspect the excavator on site at the Ohakune Transfer Station during opening hours.

Tenders close 3.00 pm on Tuesday 27th October 2026

Please submit your tender bid in a sealed envelope to your local Ruapehu District Council office or via email info@ruapehudc.govt.nz noting:

1. Subject line to be Public Tender Excavator,
2. Your name, address and contact phone number;
3. The tender amount (Highest tender not necessarily accepted).

Note: Buyer's responsibility to transport the vehicle away from site.

Any questions, please contact Carole (Fleet Manager) on (07) 895 8188.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Te Kotahitanga Tribal Komiti AGM

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Te Kotahitanga Tribal Komiti, Makaranui Marae, will be held at Makaranui Marae, Raetihi-Ohakune Road, **9.00am on Sunday, 18 October.**

All Ngāti Tamakana hapū members of Ngāti Uenuku iwi are welcome to attend.

Nau mai, haere mai.

PUBLIC NOTICES



Department of Conservation *Te Papa Atawhai*

NOTIFICATION OF GUIDING CONCESSION APPLICATION

The Minister of Conservation gives notice under section 17SC of the Conservation Act 1987 of applications to undertake guided walking over the Tongariro Alpine Crossing and transporting guided clients using the Mangatepopo Road and carpark and Ketetahi Road and carpark at Tongariro National Park. The concession term is for a period of 5 years. The applicants for this bulk process are: Active Earth Holdings Limited, Adrift Outdoors Limited, Adventure Outdoors Limited, Adventure South Limited, Antipodes Travel Limited, Intrepid DMC New Zealand Limited, Sir Edmund Hillary Outdoors Education Trust, TMGH Jolly Limited Partnership, Tongariro Wild Limited and Walking Legends Limited.

Further details of the proposed concessions are available at www.doc.govt.nz/consultations

Any person or organisation may make a submission in writing to the Director-General on the proposal. The submission must be made on a submission form downloaded from the specific application webpage found at www.doc.govt.nz/consultations (or available from your local DOC office).

You may make a submission by sending a written or electronic submission to:

Director-General
Department of Conservation
Permissions Team
Private Bag 3072
Hamilton 3240
Attention: Crystal Jones, Permissions Advisor
Email: cryjones@doc.govt.nz

Submissions close on **Thursday 29th October 2026 at 5:00pm**. Once submitted, submitters' information is subject to the Official Information Act 1982 and may be released under that Act. If you wish to keep any part of your submission confidential, you need to state this in writing when making your submission.

Any person or organisation wishing to be heard in support of his/her submission, must request (within that submission) an opportunity to appear before the Director-General.

If a hearing is required, it is likely to occur in November 2026.

OHAKUNE AND WAIMARINO RETURNED AND SERVICES ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 8 October 2026 at 6pm
Raetihi Cosmopolitan Club

All welcome



Waimarino Toy Library AGM

Saturday 14th November,
10-11am at 45 Clyde Street, Ohakune.

Morning tea and hot drinks will be provided.

Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Send us an email for more details
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YOUR BEST SHOT COULD WIN YOU A 2027 WHAKAPAPA SEASON PASS

What was your favourite Whakapapa moment of winter 2026?

Maybe it was a perfect morning on the upper mountain, the kids making their first turns, fresh snow under your skis or simply one of those days you'll remember long after the season is over. **Whakapapa and the Ruapehu Bulletin are looking for the best photo of the 2026 season at Whakapapa and there's a 2027 Whakapapa Winter Season Pass up for grabs. Send us the photo that sums up your season!**

HOW TO ENTER

Email your favourite Whakapapa photo to ads@ruapehubulletin.co.nz. Include your full name, phone number and a short description of the photo. Entries are open now and close 11.59pm on 31 October 2026. The winning photo will be announced in the 4 November 2026 issue of the Ruapehu Bulletin.



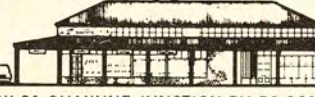
AND SPEAKING OF 2027...

Whakapapa's Super Early Bird Season Pass Sale kicks off tomorrow!

2027 Winter Season Passes will be on sale from 1-31 October 2026, giving you the chance to lock in your next winter at Whakapapa. Keep an eye on whakapapa.com from tomorrow for all the details.

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WAIMARINO BULLETIN

VOICE OF THE RUAPEHU REGION
Tuesday 30 September 1986. Volume 4 No. 18

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OHAKUNE

Elders close Ohakune Dalcro store

Dalgety Crown Ltd closed its doors for the last time on Friday night, to re-emerge on Monday as Elders Pastoral.

In the process the Ohakune branch has been permanently closed with Waimarino operations conducted from Raetihi.

Waimarino manager Jerry Trebilcock said that growers could be assured of the same service as before the change.

"We are sorry that economic conditions have forced this change but we intend that as Elders Pastoral we will offer as good if not better service than in the past," he said.

One Raetihi staff member lost their job as a result of the change, while those in

Ohakune were leaving anyway. Ohakune branch manager Trevor Fredericksen is to take over Raetihi's Wellington Cafe.

The Dalgety Crown building in Goldfinch Street, Ohakune, is to be sold but it is intended that a chemical depot will still remain there. The company's retail business will be transferred to Raetihi.

Mr Trebilcock said that apart from the one redundancy in Raetihi the staff would be much the same. Jamie Proude would however become a fulltime merchandising agent on the road.

Robert Stout, who was agent for Elders Pastoral in the region out of their Marton office, will now be part of the Raetihi office.

Wrightson change too...

Wrightson Dalgety, the new company formed from the merger of Wrightson NMA Ltd and Dalgety Crown Ltd, also began operation yesterday.

The two companies did not merge in the southern half of the North Island where Dalgety Crown has been taken over by Elders Pastoral. However the name Wrightson Dalgety applies to the former Wrightson NMA branches in this region because it is the name of the national company.

Wanganui area manager for Wrightson Dalgety, John Broad, said he believed there was great potential in the Waimarino and his company looked forward to offering top-class service for what it sees as a growth area.

Appointments announced for the new company are as follows:

Livestock manager, Bruce Polson, wool manager Gary Stent, trading manager, Stuart Robbie, assistant trading manager, Lindsay Grindrod, retiring in December 1986, when he will be succeeded by Lionel Nowell.

Livestock representatives are Chas Gilbertson, Robert Le Quesne, Geoff Russell, (Wanganui), Nigel Brooke,

Steve Carson (Hunterville), Bernie McGahan (Raetihi), Dean Lindsay, Warwick Wilsher (Marton), and Colin Fields (Bulls), deer and goat co-ordinator, Rod Thompson.

Trading representatives are Roger Thomas, Wayne Coleman (Wanganui), John Molenaar (Hunterville), Dennis Gilmore (Raetihi), and Murray Robinson and Peter Death (Marton), horticultural representative, Duncan McIntosh, wool field officer, Gerard McCarthy.

Insurance representative, Reg Skipworth, real estate field officer Brian Robinson, rural real estate, Clive Gibbard, urban real estate, Garry Fothergill, Fay Stimpson and Alan MacDonald and commercial real estate, Lionel Baylis.

Wrightson Dalgety will operate from the Victoria Avenue premises and will also utilise the Taupo Quay grainstore, the Castlecliff woolstore and the Wanganui East woolstore.

In addition the Wanganui area of the company has branches at Raetihi in Seddon Street, Marton in the High Street and a Grain Dryer complex at Marton.

Tots have fun at Turoa



Children enjoy happy times at the Turoa creche while their parents ski. The creche is open seven days a week while the skifield is open and takes around 10 children at a time. Karen Tate, pictured, a trained primary teacher, runs the creche five days a week, and Miriam Dominick, wife of Turoa Skifield's doctor, does the other two days.

Rail freight now door to door in Waimarino

A new system of rail freight delivery should make pick up and delivery of goods more efficient to Waimarino customers.

Under the new system all rail freight, unless in full wagon lots of four tonnes and over, will be delivered direct to the customer's door.

The system has been introduced to the Rangitikei-Taumaranui region as part of a nationwide programme to upgrade Railways freight services.

Wanganui and Taumaranui will now be the only terminals in the region to handle all types and sizes of freight. Contracted local road carriers, Neil McLean of Raetihi in this case, will pick up and deliver freight door to door round the region.

Railways area traffic manager in Palmerston North Don Thomas said the new system should make for easier handling for Waimarino people.

"Where before people had to come to Ohakune station to collect consignments, they will now have them delivered door to door," he said.

Ohakune station will still handle wagon lots however, and passenger and parcel services will not be affected by the change.

Less than 10 jobs will be affected throughout the 350 kilometre line involved. It is hoped that voluntary severance and early retirement will account for these. Mr Thomas said that these jobs are still under negotiation. The streamlining of freight

handling affects freight services throughout the region between Marton and Taumaranui.

Consolidation of freight at major terminals should provide faster transit times for customers and less en-route handling.

Fund-raising for resource centre

A resource centre to offer recreation and cultural facilities for the young people in the Waimarino is finally under way and negotiations are taking place to find a permanent base.

An official committee formed recently started fund-raising. The money raised will be used to buy a building outright which will serve as a central location for young people to meet and organise functions.

The group is temporarily based at St Mary's Hall in Raetihi, but a number of sites are under consideration, including the nurses hostel at Waimarino Hospital, and a building belonging to Winstone Afforestation.

It is hoped that after a venue is found, St Mary's

Hall may be used as a base for the area's Periodic Detention Centre.

A number of programmes are set to be run through the Resource Centre, including arts and crafts, horticulture, etiquette, clerical duties and Taha Maori classes.

Tutors for the courses are currently undergoing a training course at Wanganui's Community College, which takes about 10 days to complete.

Fund-raising for the centre has taken the form of rugby matches and house nights, and has even included sending a letter to John Hawkesby requesting that a performance of It's in the Bag could take place in the area as a spin off for raising money. At present, no word has been heard from TVNZ.

Ohakune plants vanish

Hands up all those people partial to small shrubs and pot plants?

Dirty hands may be a sign of guilt, after the disappearance of plants and shrubs from around the giant carrot and at Miro Park.

The mysterious vanishing acts being performed by the vegetation - be it on their own accord, or with a little help from human fiends - has baffled those responsible for beautifying the area.

Plants and reserves supervisor, Grant Drabble, said that the bare spots had been gradually appearing over the last few months.

"The culprits obviously know what they're looking for," he said.

"The bulk of the missing plants are small shrub types such as conifers and ground cover plants."

Mr Drabble believes the culprits to be just one or two individuals with an eye for healthy, hardy plants.

The problem is not yet on a large scale, with only a handful of plants out of the thousands placed around the town, being plucked from the ground.

As yet there are no firm leads on the plant poachers or shrub rustlers but Mr Drabble has his own idea about motive.

"Perhaps they are frustrated ratepayers, unhappy with the deal they're getting from the Borough," he said.



The Ohakune Dalgety Crown building which is to be sold.

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

Four wheel drive safari for Tangiwai funds

A chance for 4WD owners to get out into the back blocks is coming up next February – a fundraiser for the Ruapehu Lions project to upgrade the Tangiwai Memorial site.

“We are looking forward to sharing the beautiful views and properties that surround Waiouru with our 4x4 Drive,” says organiser Greg Dillon.

The event is set down for Sunday 7 February 2027.

Rural properties that will open their gates to the 4WD convoy are owned or managed by: Andy and Leanne Sherratt, Ted and Anne Bates, Waiouru Station, (Southern Half) (owned by the Alexander Family), Ben McDonnell, Ron and Peggy Frew’s Turakina Valley Road property managed

by Geoff Donald. If there’s time, the convoy will also drive through properties owned by Nicole Alabaster and Ann and the late Peter McDonnell, managed by Alistair McLean.

The highest point of the Safari is about 900 metres, with 360 degree views – “a great photo opportunity of Mt Ruapehu”.

“We are very grateful to the managers and owners of these properties and are aware that we need to take every step possible to ensure the safety of our participants and the property that we are travelling through,” says Greg.

Greg says registrations are already close to full and urges locals to get in now (see advert this issue).



A 4WD safari next February will give drivers a chance to get into the back blocks.

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Golf comp a chance for beginners

Waimarino Golf Club is hosting an 8-week ambrose inter-business competition, aiming to give beginners a taste of golf, with extra support of their mates/workmates without having to pay full green fees.

“Sometimes even playing 9 holes is a bit overwhelming and frustrating,” says Amoa Hawira.

“The golf course is definitely a hidden gem and very under-utilised, especially by women and teens and children.”

“Get your teams in, if you don’t have a team to join we’ll find you one.”

“It’s an excellent way to have a go and learn some skills before Twilight Golf starts in January.”

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