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Bloody good bloke
P2



All tools out for fire effort
P3



Vandals hit pest traps
P5



Cats rally round town
P11

Kirton calls for political pledge to restore the Chateau

Ruapehu's mayor is calling for political commitment to restoring the Chateau Tongariro Hotel, saying reports that demolition remains an option will upset the thousands of people who have supported saving the Category 1 heritage-listed landmark.

"The prospect that one of New Zealand's few defining architectural landmarks may still be pulled down, despite a path to restoration at no cost to taxpayers and with significant public and economic benefits, will deeply trouble many people," says Weston Kirton.

"In three years, the Chateau will mark its centenary. It has remained a defining part of our agenda because people feel a connection to it; it's a shared story."

Kirton said the Chateau Parliamentary Petition attracted 16,000 signatures across New Zealand and overseas in less than three months.

"Since the petition closed, I have continued to receive calls from people asking how they can help secure its future," he said.

That support reflects the Chateau's importance as a national heritage asset and its potential to create jobs, attract visitors and support the regional economy."

The Manawatu-Whanganui Mayoral Forum has also written to the Prime Minister supporting full restoration of the Chateau and revitalisation of Whakapapa Village describing it as "the preferred and nationally beneficial outcome that warrants full commitment from central Government".

Kirton said the Department of Conservation's (DOC) **Turn to Page 2**

"There is an opportunity to work with iwi on a future that brings together heritage protection, Treaty partnership, cultural aspirations and economic development."

years, the Chateau's centenary, on the national cause so many personal connections are part of our

the Save the Chateau movement has attracted more than 16,000 signatures from



Astrid Paynter, at right, and Anita 'Ineeda' Goodman show off their air guitar splits at Retro Day outside The Kitchen at the Ohakune Junction on Saturday. The event – just for fun plus some prizes – saw all kinds of 1980's retro 'fashion' hauled out of storage boxes and opp shops.



Brigade takes steps for blood cancer funds

Charlie Reddish – a new recruit for the local St John Ambulance crew – steps it up on the gym stair climber at the Ohakune Fire Brigade Sky Tower Challenge fundraiser at Ohakune New World on Saturday. The Brigade team invited businesses and other groups to take steps – with each one costing 50 cents. Others included individuals plus teams from Ruapehu College, Under Construction, Ethical Waste, Eves Construction, The Hungry Rush and Ohakune Police. As well as sponsored climbers, others made donations, including Ruapehu Lions. At the time of writing, they had raised in excess of \$4500 and counting.



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Kirton calls for political pledge to restore the Chateau

From Page 1

own ministerial briefing reinforced the economic and heritage arguments, estimating that reopening the Chateau could generate \$56 million in regional economic benefits over 60 years, expressed in net present value, alongside other regional benefits and job creation.

“DOC has undertaken a proposal process that identified a credible investor-developer with the financial capacity and experience to undertake the restoration. Since then, people have understandably been expecting an announcement confirming a new lease holder and a path to restoration,” he said.

“The briefing describes a new lease as offering the greatest economic impact while preserving the heritage asset, restoring village activity and potentially avoiding substantial Crown expenditure.

This is a strong case for action and aligns directly with Government’s goals of supporting regional development, jobs and growth.”

Kirton noted that restoration and iwi aspirations need not be mutually exclusive.

“There is an opportunity to work with iwi on a future

that brings together heritage protection, Treaty partnership, cultural aspirations and economic development. A restored Chateau and revitalised village could demonstrate what that partnership can achieve for future generations.”

He said successive Governments had invested millions of dollars in ski fields, year-round attractions, visitor infrastructure and environmental restoration across Ruapehu and the wider region, including significant projects led by iwi and hapū.

“Restoring the Chateau and revitalising Whakapapa Village would help unlock the full value of those investments. The Chateau provided around 30% of Ruapehu’s commercial visitor beds and its continued closure means the region is missing out on visitor spending, employment and business opportunities.

“A thriving Chateau and village would encourage people to stay longer, explore more and support local businesses throughout the year, strengthening the return on public investment.

“With its centenary approaching I am calling for a clear commitment to restoration and a pathway forward with the investor and iwi that gives this nationally significant building a future.”



Ruapehu’s mayor Weston Kirton is calling for political commitment to restore the Category 1 heritage-listed Chateau Tongariro Hotel, citing strong public support and its potential to create jobs, stimulate growth and support much-needed regional development - demolition should be off the table. Photo: RDC.

Corrections

Last week’s *Bulletin* contained some errors, including an incorrect spelling of Elijah Pue’s surname in the headline on Page 3. There was also a typo on the front page – it should have read that Jackson Campbell was “supported by his wife Bidi..” We apologise for the errors.

Ruapehu Events & What’s On

OCTOBER 2026

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

Junction Spring Market 24 Oct
10am-2pm. More info text Jennie 0210 236 0065

Land Rover Show Taumarunui 23-25 Oct
Contact: landrovershow@gmail.com or on Facebook The Land-Rover Show.

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06-385-8433 tcb.nz

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3 Rimu St Ohakune Junction Ph: 06 385 8648

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

LKNZ LODGE & CAFE

1 Rata St, Ohakune Ph: 027 257 LKNZ (5569)

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Walter's 183rd blood donation



Ohakune's Walter Jenks gave blood for the 183rd time last week at NZ Blood Manawātū – which was also his last life-saving gift. “Today we would like to say a massive thank you to our retiring donor Walter Jenks,” said a blood service representative. Walter started donating in his early 20s in Auckland and moved to Ohakune in 2006, where since then he has made the trip to Palmerston North to donate. “Walter's commitment is truly outstanding and we are incredibly grateful for the part he played in helping making a difference in other's lives,” says the service. He is pictured with one of the grateful phlebotomists, who holds a picture that they gifted to Walter in return for his service. Photo: NZ Blood Manawātū.

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 4726; Brian Portland 027 558 5585; Oriwia Wanakore 020 498 4088; Robyn Gram (RDC Rep) 027 389 1912
Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board:
John (Luigi) Hotter - Chairperson 027 274 2616; Stu Robinson - Deputy Chairperson 021 024 07657; Kay Henare 027 924 7252; Colin Pakai 021 091 67315; Emma Young 027 347 1457; David (Rabbit) Nottage - (RDC Rep) 021 111 6514
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‘We’re pulling out all the tools’: Tongariro fire recovery effort continues

By Moana Ellis

More than 250 hectares of weed control has been carried out and 91 deer removed from Tongariro National Park since fires destroyed thousands of hectares of alpine ecosystems late last year.

The major recovery effort is targeting weeds and introduced browsers such as deer and hares.

Department of Conservation (DOC) operations manager Libby O’Brien said native plants are resilient but the fire-damaged landscape remains vulnerable despite signs of natural recovery.

“We’re seeing things like flax recovering quickly, but the plants here are still really vulnerable to being overgrown by weeds.

“There’s been aerial and ground-based weed control and deer control, and we’re using drones to detect pests and monitor landscape change over time.

“We’re pulling out all the tools to get the work done.”

The fires that began in early November destroyed more than 3000 hectares of slow-growing alpine ecosystems in the dual World Heritage-listed national park.

DOC has been working with iwi, weed and deer control contractors, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi and adjacent landowners as part of the recovery effort.

Restorative rāhui

Visitors to the national park are being asked to

respect the 10-year restorative rāhui (protective restriction) placed over the fire-affected area by mana whenua Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro to limit further ecosystem disturbance.

Visitors were expected to stay on open tracks, keep shoes and gear clean to prevent weed spread, avoid fire-affected areas off-track and take all rubbish with them.

The rāhui aims to protect the landscape while long-term restoration work is done.

Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro spokesperson Te Ngāhe Wanikau said last year the 10-year commitment would help heal the land and restore the mauri of Tongariro.

“Visitors can still walk the tracks, but the burn



Native plants are beginning to recover. Photo: DOC.

Kiwis in the mountains, on film on Thursday

A selection of New Zealand films from annual New Zealand Mountain Film Festival is on show at the Matterhorn in Ohakune in October.

As well as getting to see some Kiwi adventurers on missions around the world and in New Zealand, people buying tickets will be supporting the Predator Free Ohakune group, that is working to restore native birdlife to the town that sits right on the boundary of the Tongariro National Park.

The set of short films feature world-class Kiwi productions alongside the best of international adventure cinema — skiing, climbing, kayaking, mountain biking, and more.

Each year, the NZ Mountain Film Festival Charitable Trust stages one of the world’s premier mountain film festivals in Otago, then invites groups from around the country to share a selection of the best films.

This year’s Kiwi selection includes:

Jerry on the Jerry (10 mins) Huw Miles — a team of pack rafters make a second attempt at a first descent of the Jerry River deep in Fiordland.

Race Be Run (15 mins) Richard Carey & Prabhjit Sabharwal. Dressed as Superman, a man runs solo

along Canada’s highways to raise funds for cancer charities, transforming the grief of losing both parents into a quiet, inspiring mission of hope.

Project RedLine (30 mins) Matheson Brown. A blue-collar nobody from New Zealand goes up against a mountaineering elite in an attempt to strip him of what is widely believed to be an illegitimate world record. (Festival Spirit Award)

Alone on Makalu (22 mins) Nick Kowalski. Matthew Scholes attempts to summit the world’s fifth-highest mountain without supplementary oxygen.

The Pole of Inaccessibility (25 mins) Danny Warley & Ned Brannigan. A paraglider embarks on a multi-day bivouac flight across New Zealand’s Southern Alps, navigating glaciers and vast wilderness to reach the country’s most remote point, the Pole of Inaccessibility. He then faces the challenge of getting back out. (Spirit of Adventure Award)

100 Days in Fiordland (24 mins) Dan Sutherland. Three kayakers spend 100 winter days deep in Fiordland National Park, sea kayaking, hunting, fishing and searching for unexplored whitewater in one of New Zealand’s most demanding wilderness expeditions.

areas need time. This is about creating a future where healing the maunga becomes a shared kaupapa.”

In February, \$3.5 million in International Visitor Levy funding was allocated over five years to support recovery of the Tongariro landscape, including the Tongariro Alpine Crossing.

So far, more than 250ha have been treated for weeds and of the 91 deer removed from the area, 25 were delivered to a local marae for food.

O’Brien said the national park and its recovery has cultural, economic and social significance for the community.

The recovery would take years and weeds will remain visible across the park, O’Brien said.

“We haven’t eradicated the weeds, so we can still expect to see plenty of yellow broom flowering in the park. This is a long-term project, and it will take time to see results.

“Over time, we expect the scar on the landscape to slowly disappear, replaced by native plants.”

A community open day is to be held on 16 October at 10am at the Blue Mountain Adventure Centre in Raurimu, to allow people to hear more about the recovery work.

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

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Raetihi water breaches expose wider Ruapehu consent problems

By Moana Ellis

Ruapehu District Council is tightening controls on Raetihi's water supply after an abatement notice exposed historical consent compliance failures.

Officials are warning the central North Island town faces a difficult summer if water use is not better managed.

The council was issued the abatement notice by Horizons Regional Council after four conditions of its resource consent for taking water from the Mākotuku River had not been complied with.

The consent, granted in June 2020, requires the council to prepare

and submit reports and management plans covering water demand, leakage, water restrictions and operation of the supply network.

Council waters manager Rick Low told Wednesday's council meeting the required documents had been prepared internally but were not submitted because of weaknesses in historical consent tracking, document management and submission processes.

Three of the four outstanding requirements have now been addressed, with documents provided to Horizons in draft form on 15 September. The remaining Water Demand Management Plan is due to be updated and submitted by 31 October.



Ruapehu District Council is preparing a restricted-water notice process in Raetihi for this summer and warns restrictions could need to be managed “to a much higher level than we traditionally have”. Photo: supplied. View from the top of the Raetihi Water Treatment Plant. Photo: supplied.

Horizons has also recorded breaches of the Ruapehu council's low-flow abstraction limits during March and April this year, when it took more water than its consent allowed.

It has incurred \$2000 in infringement fees, along with staff and consultant costs associated with addressing the historical compliance issues.

Wider problem

Low told councillors the Raetihi case was part of a much wider compliance problem after Councillor Viv Hoeta said she wanted assurances that other historical consent problems would not emerge unexpectedly.

“We have existing historical consent

issues with 13 of our consents,” Low responded, saying he was due to meet Horizons officials next week to work through those matters.

“We’ve got a plan, we’re moving forward, we just need to front foot it now rather than let time pass.”

He said the issues would be further discussed in a closed meeting with councillors later in the day.

Councillor Kuru Ketu said the Raetihi issues did not concern the safety or quality of drinking water.

Council chief executive Clive Manley confirmed they related primarily to managing the abstraction of raw water, particularly during periods of low river flow.

water takes not unlimited

A major concern is water being taken from the raw-water pipeline by properties between the river intake and the Raetihi treatment plant.

Councillor Rabbit Nottage asked whether long-standing pipeline agreements allowed landowners to take unlimited water from it.

“Wasn’t that part of the rental at the time, that they could draw as much water off as they needed from the raw water line before it even got to Raetihi?” Nottage asked.

Low said there were historical agreements allowing farmers and other landowners to take water from the pipeline that crosses their land. Some were formal agreements, while others dated back decades and were effectively handshake arrangements.

The council is now reviewing those arrangements.

The mayor, Weston Kirton said the original purpose of the pipeline was to supply Raetihi, and water access for landowners had been provided in that context.

The historical arrangements should not be interpreted as giving landowners unlimited access.

“The consent, whether it’s up or down, determines the level of generosity from the council,” he said.

Kirton also suggested metering could establish how much water individual landowners were taking.

The council’s resource consent limits how much water can be taken from the Mākotuku River. Low said it can abstract about 1700 cubic metres a day during winter, but that falls to about 1100 cubic metres a day during low summer flows.

However, he said Raetihi’s demand can exceed the amount the council is legally allowed to take in the summer.

“There is no storage facility for water so when they need water, they take water,” Low said.

The council has electronic controls intended to reduce abstraction when river levels fall, but Low said the system relied on communications over a nine-kilometre

‘The historical arrangements should not be interpreted as giving landowners unlimited access.’

THE WEEKLY WORKOUT

answers for each puzzle are included on this page

871

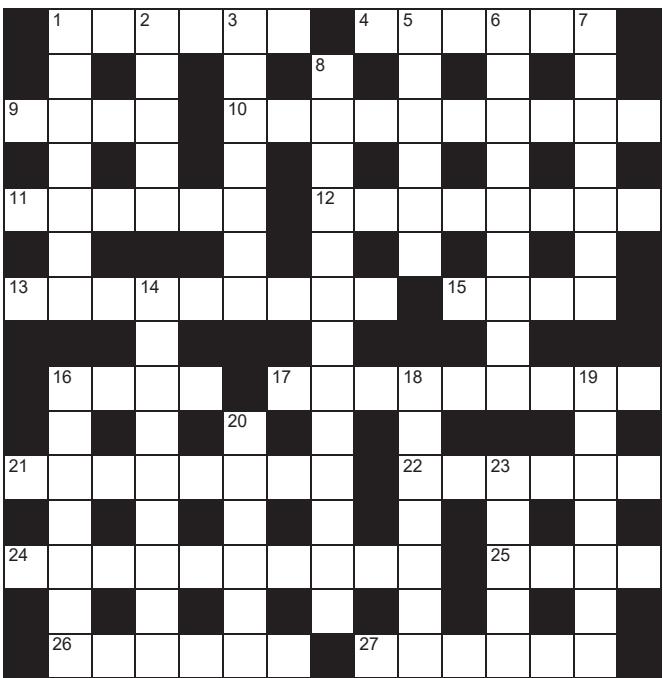
QUICK CROSSWORD

Across

- 1. Long for (6)
- 4. Life story (in film) (6)
- 9. Coloured part of eye (4)
- 10. Sorry (10)
- 11. Cake (6)
- 12. Status (8)
- 13. Quick-tempered (9)
- 15. Jealousy (4)
- 16. Neither good nor bad (2-2)
- 17. Hospital (9)
- 21. Cellar (8)
- 22. Small stone (6)
- 24. Absurd (10)
- 25. Side (4)
- 26. Conquer (6)
- 27. Go back on a deal (6)

Down

- 1. Violent windstorm (7)
- 2. Distribute (5)
- 3. Kitchen tool (7)
- 5. Line on a weather map (6)
- 6. Alias (9)
- 7. Flue (7)
- 8. Dismay (13)
- 14. Fits of uncontrollable laughing or crying (9)



- 16. Arena (7)
- 18. Deadlock (7)
- 19. Set free (7)
- 20. Arrive at a conclusion (6)
- 23. Wash (5)



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THE TOP 10

- 1. Karapiro, 2. Alto, 3. Juniper, 4. Dialects of Chinese, 5. Lyndon Johnson, 6. Piltown Man, 7. Bill English, 8. 32, 9. Fishplate, 10. Magpie.

SUDOKU

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

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

1 EASY 2

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

1 MEDIUM 2

The Top 10

- 1. New Zealand's high-performance rowing programme is based at which lake?
- 2. Which singing voice is between tenor and soprano?
- 3. Which berry gives gin its flavour?
- 4. Are Wu and Min dialects of Chinese, zoo pandas, or acupuncture points?
- 5. Who was stationed in New Zealand during World War II and became the first US President to visit here, in 1966?
- 6. Which 1912 hoax regarding human ancestry was not exposed until 1953?
- 7. Who replaced Jenny Shipley as leader of the National Party?
- 8. How many teeth does a human normally have?
- 9. What name is given to the flat piece of metal that connects railway lines?
- 10. What introduced bird has a white-backed and a black-backed sub species?

CROSSWORD

Impasse, 19. Release, 20. Deduce, 23. Bathe. Constermation, 14. Hysterics, 16. Stadium, 18. 5. Isobar, 6. Pseudonym, 7. Chimney, 8. Down: 1. Tomado, 2. Issue, 3. Spatula, Team, 26. Master, 27. Renegé. 21. Basement, 22. Pebble, 24. Ridiculous, 25. Hotheaded, 15. Envy, 16. So-so, 17. Infirmary, Apologetic, 11. Gateau, 12. Standing, 13. Across: 1. Thrift, 4. Biopic, 9. Irs, 10.

SUDOKU

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

Vandals' actions threaten Tongariro kiwi

Kiwi in Tongariro Forest are more vulnerable after vandals burned and smashed ferret traps vital to protecting the birds.

Four traps were burned, and a fifth was believed to have been run over by a vehicle, on a track not far from the popular 42 Traverse. It's believed the vandalism occurred in mid-September.

Department of Conservation biodiversity ranger Jerome Guillotel says it's frustrating to see senseless vandalism undermining kiwi conservation efforts.

"I do find the odd trap smashed or stolen, but this seems more deliberate and malicious. It's bad for the kiwi, every trap removed from operation leaves them a little more vulnerable to introduced predators."

Guillotel estimates more than 600 brown kiwi call Tongariro Forest home.

"It's a place where we have a huge focus on predator control to allow kiwi to thrive. It also means, over the last four years, we've been able to supplement the population with around 350 kiwi from Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari – because we know they'll generally be safe here."

The vandalised traps formed part of a range of

measures aimed at protecting Tongariro Forest kiwi from introduced predators like ferrets. Three-yearly aerial 1080 operations also keep introduced predator numbers low, protecting native species like whio and kiwi.

Guillotel says even one ferret can wreak havoc in a short amount of time.

"Unlike most other introduced predators, ferrets can kill fully grown kiwi. In 2018 a single ferret in Tongariro Forest killed 10 monitored kiwi in just three months, so the traps are a critical part of preventing this kind of loss."

Brown kiwi are considered 'not threatened' but dependent on conservation efforts, meaning protected populations like the one in Tongariro Forest are key to the ongoing success of the species.

"If you're out naturing and you observe suspicious or illegal activity like vandalism occurring on public conservation land, call the DOC emergency hotline on 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468) with as much detail as possible. Existing damage can be reported via the damage report form on the DOC website."

Park sign letters stolen

Vandalising thieves have stolen the metal letters from the sign that introduces visitors to Tongariro National Park as they head to Whakapapa Village.

"They removed the letters for 'National Park' and as a result, we have removed the 'Tongariro' letters to ensure they don't get stolen too," reports the Department of Conservation.

"Tongariro National Park is a special dual World Heritage site – in fact not many of our national parks have these fancy signs," said a DOC spokesperson.

"It's a throwback and one we think helps show visitors they're entering a unique place.

"It's a real kick in the teeth - everyone who lives here, works here, or visits our park knows how special this place is. Someone will know where these letters are, and we encourage whoever has them to consider returning them."

Anyone with information about this incident is encouraged to contact the police on 105, or complete the online non-emergency reporting forms.



Unique welcome sign to Tongariro National Park now just a block of concrete, thanks to vandalising thieves.



The remains of a vandalised ferret trap. DOC is trying to reduce the number of predators such as ferrets so that native birds have a chance of survival in the Tongariro Forest. Photo: DOC.



Raetihi 160 Seddon Street

A blank canvas

Tucked away at the end of a shared driveway, 160 Seddon Street offers a generous 1,105sqm (more or less) section with space, privacy and plenty of potential. Flat and predominantly open, the quarter acre plus site provides an ideal canvas for creating a home that makes the most of its generous proportions. With no covenants, this gives you flexibility with your future plans. A mature tree line follows the side boundary, adding character and a natural sense of privacy, while the rear enjoys an open outlook towards neighbouring paddocks and the wider rural landscape.

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1,105_{sqm}

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RUAPEHU BULLETIN 7 October 2026 • 5

Giant tag on giant carrot marks launch of 'Made Greater'

Ohakune's famous carrot is sporting a new look, with an oversized Made Greater tag marking the launch of Visit Ruapehu's new long-term brand platform for the region.

The day began with a special welcome at Maungārongo Marae for acclaimed creative Bridget Taylor and the wider Visit Ruapehu whānau, before moving to Ohakune's Carrotland Adventure Park, where a group of locals joined the celebration and the 'Made Greater' tag was revealed.

Visit Ruapehu general manager Jo Kennedy said the carrot was the perfect place to demonstrate what 'Made Greater' is all about.

"You could say even a carrot is made greater in Ruapehu," Kennedy said.

"But there's something much bigger behind it. People don't just visit Ruapehu — they are changed by it. This place can surprise you, inspire you and change the way you see the world."

The creative platform was developed by Bridget Taylor, one of New Zealand's most accomplished advertising and creative professionals, who has worked internationally, founded and led agencies, won major international awards and appeared on Australian television as an advertising expert.

Taylor already had strong connections with Ruapehu before becoming involved in the project, following an introduction through Visit Ruapehu board director Nigel Douglas.

Taylor said the idea came from recognising not only how Ruapehu can elevate an experience, but how spending time in the region can change the way people feel.

"There's something about being here that gives you permission to step away from the screens, the schedules and the busyness, and actually be present," Taylor said.

"That's what 'Made Greater' is about. Experiences are made greater by being here — and you leave feeling a little greater too."

'Made Greater' is a long-term destination brand platform that will roll out across Visit Ruapehu's digital, social media, radio and video channels, with plans to extend its reach into Australia through social media and collaborative in-market activity.

It will also increasingly appear at events and industry activations and through Ruapehu tourism operators and businesses, giving the wider region opportunities to tell their own Made Greater stories.



Visit Ruapehu launches its new Made Greater brand platform at Ohakune's iconic giant carrot. From left, Nigel Douglas (Visit Ruapehu board director and founder of The Counsel), Bridget Taylor (founder of Great Company), Jo Kennedy and Catherine Pakai-Dewes (Visit Ruapehu).

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keeping you connected

Raetihi water breaches expose consent problems

From Page 4

pipeline and did not always respond quickly enough.

Summer restrictions

The council is preparing a restricted-water notice process for this summer. Low said restrictions would need to be managed "to a much higher level than we traditionally have".

He has already discussed the issue with mana whenua Uenuku and plans further discussions with Ngāti Rangi.

The council is investigating alternative supplies, including bore water, to reduce pressure on the river. Low said one landowner had indicated they may allow the council to access an existing bore, while another option was drilling a new bore.

The old Raetihi water tank is also being assessed as a possible raw-water storage

facility, although it is no longer considered suitable for treated drinking water.

Low said the council had upgraded about 60 percent of Raetihi's pipes, with water losses improving. A recent leak detection survey found a small number of minor leaks but no major leaks.

The council is also introducing stronger tracking, reporting, document management and governance systems.

Low said the compliance problems had accumulated over many years, but the regulatory environment had changed.

"The first step is to manage it as best we can and keep water running in the township."

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

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



Ruapehu College teams' snow success



Junior Girls Giant Slalom winner Molly Aitken (right) pictured with Coco Bayley, second place getter.

Ruapehu College's skli race team were placed 4th overall in the North Island Secondary Schools Ski Competition giant slalom on Monday 15 September at Tūroa. The College's slopestyle ski team were placed first in their competition and the girls' snowboarding team were 2nd in the giant slalom.

Overall team results: 1st King's College; 266.90; 2nd Auckland Grammar School 240.63; 3rd Baradene College 226.17; 4th Ruapehu College 221.63; 5th Diocesan School for Girls 209.17; 6th Woodford House 196.00; 7th Taupo-nui-a-Tia College 177.94; 8th Queen Margaret College 169.50; 9th Kristin School 156.29; 10th Epsom Girls Grammar School 155.83.

Giant Slalom snowboard teams: 1st Napier Boys' High School 40.00; 2nd Ruapehu College 36.00; 3rd Mount



Ruapehu College takes home first place in the North Island Secondary Schools Skiing Competition slopestyle ski on Monday 15 September. From left, Olavi Aulin (5th senior boys), Rylee Fraser (3rd= senior girls & 8th in GS), Mica Hoyle (2nd senior boys), Kobe Learmonth (3rd junior boys), Jay Learmonth (7th senior boys).

Maunganui College 30.34; 4th Whangamatā Area School 29.00; 5th Mount Albert Grammar School 27.90; 6th Te Awamutu College 22.67; 7= Ōtūmoetai College 22.50; 7= Kristin School 22.50; 9t Auckland Grammar School 21.82; 10 Raglan Area School 19.00.



College rugby reps

Ruapehu College students Vanessa Ashford-Wallis, Atlas Elers, and Violet Soverel earned representative selection for the Whanganui U16 Girls, helping power the team to an undefeated division title at the Hurricanes Youth Rugby Council Tournament in Napier over the weekend. Whanganui dominated the competition, outscoring their opponents 135-22 across four straight wins, capped off with a shutout victory in the final: vs Wairarapa Bush, won 42-5; vs Horowhenua Kapiti, won 17-12; vs Poverty Bay, won 31-5; final vs Horowhenua Kapiti, won 45-0. Photo: Ruapehu College.



Snowboard Giant Slalom Junior Girls: Violet Soverel (7th GS and 5th Slopestyle), Hana Harding (3rd), Milla Smith-Horne (1st GS and 2nd Slopestyle), Amelia Deadman (5th), Brooklyn Hovelle (8th).

Whakapapa selling 2027

Whakapapa is getting winter 2027 underway early, with its Super Early Bird Season Pass sale, which launched on Friday, offering some of the lowest Season Pass prices in New Zealand.

Passes start from just \$99 for children, \$149 for youth and \$299 for adults.

"For families, the Super Early Bird offer provides an affordable way to lock in a full season on the maunga," says marketing manager Phil Lemalu.

"A family of two adults and two children can secure Season Passes for \$796, with passes also available through a flexible payment option.

"We wanted to take some of the thinking and upfront cost out of buying a Season Pass. The option to secure your pass for just \$49 and split the remaining balance across two payments means families can lock in the best price now while spreading the cost across the lead-up to winter," says Lemalu.

He says the value also extends to skiers and snowboarders, with an Adult Super Early Bird Season Pass costing less than two standard Adult Day Passes.

"We also focused on making our 2027 Season Passes genuinely good value. With the 2027 Adult Day Pass starting at \$159, an Adult Season Pass at \$299 effectively pays for itself in less than two days on the mountain," says Lemalu.

Super Early Bird Season Passes are available online until 31 October 2026, with prices increasing after this date.



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First Ruapehu Rallycat ride a winner

What's Ruapehu RallyCat? It's a cycle ride around town where riders head off with no idea where the course goes.

The Ruapehu event – based on the 'alley cat' style event – ran on the weekend for the first time in Ohakune.

Before the race starts organisers tape a copy of the 'manifest' to each bike. Riders then have to follow the instructions to find the waypoints, where they take a selfie of find tokens of proof that they were at the checkpoint.

Some checkpoints were manned and riders had to complete tasks.

"Alley Cats are a type of bike race that usually happen in big cities where they have bike messengers – NYC, Berlin, London, Melbourne, Stockholm, Amsterdam,

Paris," explains organiser Joshua Gerbault.

He says the events 'just happen' within the natural context of the environment. Riders are responsible for their own health and safety as well as others.

"It's up to the rider to decide the best way to navigate the different checkpoints."

He said without the usual urban obstacles, he decided to make the manifest locations "a bit cryptic" and gave racers riddles to solve to find the locations, as well as utilizing some of the public bike trails that are in the area, rather than just roads.

Joshua says the response from riders has been "overwhelmingly positive".

They had 37 riders, aged between 10 and 71, taking between 60-90 minutes.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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:

Quotable Value Ltd – Business Support
Private Bag 39 818
Wellington Mail Centre
LOWER HUTT 5045

More information about "Understanding your Rating Value" can be found at:

www.ratingvalues.co.nz

Quentin Speers
Executive Manager
Finance, Strategy and Governance
Ruapehu District Council



PUBLIC NOTICES



SHAREHOLDER EVENT 2026

Nau mai. Haere mai.

Tuesday 20 October 2026

Ātihaū-Whanganui Incorporation would like to warmly invite all shareholders and whānau to our shareholder event.

This year we will be visiting Tohunga Farm to do some planting on our whenua.

The bus departs from Pākaitore, Whanganui at 8am. Please meet at 7.30am to check -in.

Those who wish to drive themselves can meet us at Maungarongo Marae, Ohakune for pōwhiri at 10am.

After morning tea, we will travel together to Tohunga Farm and finish back at Maungarongo Marae for lunch.

Registrations close on Wednesday 14 October 2026.

To register, please contact the Whanganui office on 06 348 7213 or email office@atihau.com

Ratana Church doors open for a day



More than 70 whānau joined Koro Robbie Williams, Te Pāriha o Raetihi and the Kaihanga construction team on site to check out progress on the temple restoration. Now halfway through the mahi, the community were able to view the rebuilt towers and replaced exterior framing, along with the 115-year-old interior sarking and matai flooring, which will be retained and restored. The Te Pāriha o Raetihi Komiti are currently planning to have the whare whakamoemiti reopened in late February. Photo: Liz Brooker

Letters

No airwaves?

• No politoco has approached me in this season of hype, but I'd like to enlighten them all that the matter of Intelligent Radio is absent in Raetihi, so judging who I might vote for is diminished.

Please can NZ National Radio/Concert be extended to Raetihi? I refuse to afford/have internet, but paying my taxes since 1958, surely I'm entitled to a little Intelligent Radio?

John Riding

Pay inequity?

• Who is Labour trying to Con?

Labours (sic) recent announcements are to increase the pay of 65,000 workers by \$4.00 per hour and to re-introduce the Pay Equity Scheme.

What they haven't told the intended recipients of the above increase of income, is that for families with children, their work-

ing for family's tax credits they presently receive, will reduce dramatically.

Also, for single persons, they will be no longer eligible for the \$520.00 per year tax rebate.

Will it be after the Elections that they will advise the public?

Phillip Harvey

Landlords tax

• The Labour Party previously and viciously attacked the National Party when the tax deductibility of interest on rental residential houses was re-introduced.

They stated it was a \$2.4 billion tax cut for landlords.

Labour just recently has come out and said it will not reverse this decision, ie; leaving interest as a tax-deductible expense on residential properties.

The question is, where will Labour get the \$2.4 billion shortfalls.

What hidden agenda has Labour go to recover this tax from landlords?

Phillip Harvey



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BUSINESS NOTICES

RAILWAY MUSEUM & OP SHOP. Open 10am-2pm Thursday - Sunday. 62 Thames St, 100m past Railway Station. Sponsored by The Ski Shed.



Ruapehu Mayor Weston Kirton

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



PUBLIC NOTICES
Section 101, Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012
No8 Restaurant & Bar Ohakune Limited has made an application to the District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council for the **renewal of an On Licence** in respect of the premises situated at **55 Clyde Street, Ohakune**, known as **No8 Restaurant & Bar**. The general nature of the business to be conducted under the licence is that of a **Restaurant**. The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is intended to be sold under the licence are: **Monday to Sunday 10.00am – 12.00am (midnight)**.

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

Any person who is entitled to object and who wishes to object to the issue of the licence may, not later than 25 working days after the date of the publication of this notice, file a notice in writing of the objection with the Secretary of the District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council, Private Bag 1001, Taumarunui 3946. No objections to the issue of a licence may be made in relation to a matter other than a matter specified in section 105(1) of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

This is the first publication of this notice.

BUSINESS NOTICES

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COMMUNITY LEGAL ADVICE WHANGANUI

Free Legal Advice Clinics

Raetihi Chambers
44 Seddon Street, Raetihi
Wednesday between 10am – 12pm
14 October

Ngāti Rangi Community Health Centre
Maungārongo Marae, 36A Burns Street, Ohakune
Wednesday between 1pm – 3pm
14 October

To book an appointment, call or email us with your name and contact phone number

Community Legal Advice Whanganui (CLAW)
Phone 0800 00 36 36 Email – claw@claw.co.nz

PUBLIC NOTICES

OHAKUNE AND WAIMARINO RETURNED AND SERVICES ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 8 October 2026 at 6pm
Raetihi Cosmopolitan Club

All welcome

BEE HIVE PLACEMENTS

We are seeking additional sites to lease on bona fide rural properties. December to February in the Central Plateau and surrounding areas. 10 years' continuous operating in the area.

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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.



Large Scale Demolitions

The Defence Ammunition Depot Waiouru, Defence Munitions Management Group will be conducting large scale demolitions in the vicinity of the southeastern base of Mt Ruapehu west of Desert Road between 10am and 5pm from Tuesday 13 October – Thursday 15 October 2026.

Loud explosions may be heard during these times for anyone in the surrounding area.

All questions can be directed to:
Brad Locke – DMMG, Defence Munitions Management Group 021 778 193

NOTICE OF WHAKAPAPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING RAETWHA RĀHUI TRUST & CALL FOR TRUSTEE NOMINATIONS

1 Vacancy

Tuesday 24th November 2026 at 6.30pm
Venue: Zoom Online

For descendants of Renatio Wiremu Rangitauira and Raetiwha Rāhui Trustees
Entry is by confirming whakapapa to Renatio Wiremu Rangitauira

Agenda:

- Mihimihi/Karakia
- Apologies
- Whakapapa verification
- Minutes of previous Whakapapa AGM
- Annual & Financial Reports
- Election of Trustees
- General Business

Inquiries, plus requests for Trustee Nomination Forms to Lisa Stewart – lisa.stewart.nz2015@gmail.com

Completed Trustee Nomination Forms to be received by Sunday 25 October 2026

PUBLIC NOTICES

PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE FOR RAETIHI CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL - SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER 2026



Pursuant to Schedule 10, Section 342 of the Local Government Act 1974 notice is hereby given that the Ruapehu District Council will propose to close the below road for the following event:

Event: Raetihi Christmas Carnival and Parade 2026
Road Closed: Seddon Street between Ward Street and Duncan Street
Date: Saturday 12 December 2025
Time: 7:00am to 3:00pm
Detour Available: Via Queen Street and King Streets

The above proposed road closure is provisional pending regulatory approval of the Traffic Management Plan. The Raetihi Christmas Carnival does not anticipate any changes.

Any person objecting to the proposal is called upon to lodge notice of their objection and the grounds thereof in writing by 5pm Wednesday 3rd November 2026 at the office of Ruapehu District Council, at Private Bag 1001, Taumarunui 3946 or emailed to info@ruapehudc.govt.nz.

SITUATIONS VACANT



Ruapehu Health Ltd

Kaiāwhina – Cultural & Whānau Support Part-time

Ruapehu Health Ltd is seeking a compassionate, community-minded Kaiāwhina to join our team and strengthen culturally responsive, whānau-centred care.

The role will support whānau to access healthcare, navigate services and overcome barriers to care, while building relationships with local whānau, hapū, iwi and community organisations.

We are looking for someone with:

- Strong community connections and an understanding of tikanga Māori and Te Ao Māori.
- A commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and equitable Māori health outcomes.
- Excellent communication, empathy, initiative and relationship-building skills.
- The ability to work independently and collaboratively while maintaining confidentiality and cultural safety.

A Whānau Ora Level 4 Certificate is desirable. Relevant health or community experience are advantageous. A clinical qualification is not essential.

To apply: Email a cover letter, CV and details of at least two referees to Tracy Mitchell, Clinical Service Manager tmitchell@rhl.org.nz

Applications close 16 October 2026.

Applications may be reviewed before the closing date, so early applications are encouraged.

For everything Ohakune, visit www.ohakune.info

Peak to Powderkeg damp but fun



Jackson Campbell, first male. Photos: Glyn Hubbard.

Given the near seven-year hiatus, Pure Tūroa says they were thrilled with the turnout for the Peak to Powderkeg multi-sports race on Saturday 26 September, not just from the competitors, but also the spectators, supporters, and everyone who helped make it happen.

“We’d like to acknowledge Antika and the Powderkeg team, along with Ben and the TCB crew for their efforts,” says marketing manager James Simpson.

“Without the generous support of those two organisations, this event could not have taken place.”

He said a special mention also goes to all the volunteers and course marshals, as well as Jesse from Peak/Lake FM who MC’d the event.

“It was awesome to see such committed support from the local community.

“The event was a great success. Through tears and laughter, every last competitor made it to the finish line.”

The event started from the High Noon drive station, with competitors running across to their gear, before skiing or snowboarding down to the ski area base. They then ran down the Ohakune Mountain Road to the next changeover point where they got on their bikes to ride the rest of the way to Thames Street at the Ohakune Junction. From there, they ran the short distance to the Powderkeg carpark to scull a beer (or lemonade if under age or those not wishing to partake in alcoholic beverage).

Winning competitor Jackson Campbell said the conditions were “a bit damp”, but that he enjoyed the race. He said the skiing leg was good, with very good snowgrooming having been done to prepare the run (he would say that – his dad Fred oversees the grooming crew!)

Results

Open Men. 1st Jackson Campbell 35.14; 2nd Lucas Akers 38.21; 3 39.11 Bradley De Kirk 39.11; 4 Luka Clayton 39.17; 5 Lawrence Fay 39.54; 6 Joseph Rapley 40.04; 7 Hamish McKenzie 40.09; 8 Lachlan Holt 40.13; 9 Rowan Trotter; 40.39; 10 Robert Bentley 40.46.

Open Women. 1 Lyneche Sturch 38.06; 2 Louise Marsden 39.36; 3 Vanessa Young 44.26; 4 Lisa Frew 44.42; 5 Emma Rowe 47.31; 6 Olivia Manson 48.3; 7 Grace O’Sullivan 49.48; 8 Rachel Gilberd 51.56; 9 Ella Kirkup 52.19; 10 Olive Percy 52.24.

Juniors. 1st Harry Sherrit 38.34; 2 Eloise Carver 45.36; 3 Olavi Aulin 45.39; 4 Kyle Holt 45.5; Grace Sherrit 49.16; 6 Anna Charlett 49.22; 7 Isla Walker 53.45; 8 Luca McKenzie 56.11; 9 Rory Heath 101.59; 10 Lieza Zuba; 108.56.

Teams: 1 37.44 Willow Lane Ski Team; 2 37.56 The Blackwood Adventurers; 3 39.01 The Racing Robertsies; 4 39.39 Fast and Fouries; 5 39.45 Mia’s Marauders; 6 45.45 Chasing Uncle Mike; 7 48.06 Team Hosking; 8 48.47 Who Invited Phil?; 9 52.13 Kune Krew; 10 56.25 Powder Addicts.



First woman, Lyneche Sturch.

Property Brokers

Ohakune 25 Miro Street



Price guide \$475,000 - 3 multi-titled units

With an appraised return of \$62,500 p.a. An excellent opportunity has arisen in Ohakune to secure a multi-unit investment with strong income potential. 25 Miro Street comprises three separately titled residential units, being offered together to give a new owner the opportunity to acquire the complete cross-lease holding. A price guide of \$475,000 for the entire property along with necessary work required on them allows a conservative estimate of achieving 10% + returns. One of each 2-bedroom, 3-bedroom, and 4-bedroom units make these homes attractive to a wide range of tenants.

9 4 2 2

Auction 1.00pm, Thu 15th Oct, 2026,
1 Goldfinch Street, Ohakune
View By appointment
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