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Ruapehu Bulletin
P: 06 385 8532 E: ads@ruapehubulletin.co.nz
4 November 2026
Issue No 2130



Tracer bullet sparks fire P3



Land Rover fans chat over the bonnet P5



Carmen show in capital P7



Thieves flog trees P8

Council tick for Horopito Hub study, after lengthy debate

Investing staff time and taking on some risk in developing the Horopito Hub was up for discussion by the Ruapehu District Council at their meeting in Ohakune on Wednesday, with councillors finally deciding to approve funding of up to $25,000 for further study on the proposal.

In light of the current push to cut RDC costs, councillors want to know what assurances there will be that the council won't be hit with ongoing costs from the project.

A report was presented to councillors seeking approval to add the Horopito Hub as an unbudgeted capital project to the FY27 capital expenditure programme, with a budget of $405,000 excluding GST, funded through the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy allocation.

The $25,000 would be refunded to RDC from the Tourism Levy allocation.

The resolution that had been proposed stated that RDC would require "before construction commitments are made: Execution of the funding agreement and confirmation of its conditions; securing and documenting appropriate land tenure arrangements that protect public access and Council's investment; and Confirmation of ongoing operating, maintenance and renewal costs".

This part of the proposed resolutions was left to lie on the table until a later meeting.

The Horopito Hub proposal is aimed to provide parking, safe shuttle access, public toilets and visitor information at the junction of three Mountains to Sea trail sections.

Councillor Robyn Gram asked where the idea for Hub had come from – that she and fellow-councillors had not been aware of it before the Government announcement.

Mayor Weston Kirton confirmed that RDC had not been informed prior to the announcement.

Delivery of the project is proposed through a partnership between Ruapehu District Council and Ngā Ara Tūhono Charitable Trust, with Council owning the completed public assets.

Land tenure was also a question from Cr Kuru Ketu – he said he was concerned that if the land for the Hub became council land, there could become costs to the ratepayer in the future.

The chief executive, Clive Manley, said he was aware of these concerns, which was the reason for the report – to seek approval to do the investigations. He said the resolution wasn't to approve the project – but to carry out due diligence to assess the project and potential costs to RDC.

"There is a bit of a risk but I need to know if you think it is a good idea, so that I can go away and do the investigations."

He said the proposed resolution was not a decision to build the Hub yet.

Ketu said this was happening at the same time that RDC was proposing to close public toilets around the District.

Cr Viv Hoeta said it was a "wonderful idea, going to be fully funded and it won't cost the ratepayer".

"Love the project – a wonderful idea –

Turn to Page 2

Animals aplenty at school



Stella Thrupp and Bella Cranston were among the ribbon winners at the Lamb and Calf section of the recent Ohakune Primary School Ag Day. The school thanked everyone involved in "making Ag Day such a special part of our school community". "It's such a real highlight of our year. It's a fantastic opportunity for our tamariki to showcase their hard work, care of their animals and dedication." Photo: OPS.



Ruapehu's water bill share at $3.5m

By Mark Ebrey

Ruapehu ratepayers can expect to hear soon what's going on with the new water entity being set up to operate water and waste water services in the combined Ruapehu/Whanganui area.

A report tabled at last week's Ruapehu District Council meeting said the communications strategy for the project was expected to be completed earlier in October; and the output would be seen on both council websites before the new entity gets its own website.

Ruapehu's share of the implementation costs are nearly $3.5 million, if the costs are to be split equally between the two councils.

A full breakdown of the expected implementation cost are printed at the end of this story.

It has already been reported that Ruapehu ratepayers can expect to see their water bills jump by up to 92% over the next eight years because of the decision to go with the two-council model, rather than a five-council version also on offer.

That will see the average water bill jump from $2061 to $3954 per year.

The rationale for going with the adopted model was supposedly because of concerns by iwi that having a water entity based on more than one river catchment would potentially divert attention and possibly resources away from the Whanganui River.

The report added:

As per the approved Implementation Plan, the first step of the plan is to embed a Tupua te Kawa (The Whanganui River Framework) and Te mana Tupua (The Whangaehu River Framework) approach in the project and the eventual WS-CCO, and the timing of future phases is dependent on this phase being done well in the time it takes.

Improving delivery, efficiency, effectiveness and affordability are central in the design of Te Awa Tupua and Te Waiū-o-te-Ika and they are an existing legal mandate for a model of water services delivery that moves beyond traditional organisational boundaries.

Work has accelerated in relation to working up what the practical opportunities are to apply the principles, values and approach of the frameworks to the WS-CCO in this quarter and this is expected to continue through the next quarter leading to the rapid development of a set of foundational documents, which provide a framework for the continuous improvement of water service delivery that improves the health and wellbeing of the awa and their connected communities.

Work has also accelerated on the transfer agreements, AMP, SAMP and opex and capex budgeting to support the development of the Water Services Strategy in way that is aligned with the frameworks. The Digital Capability Assessment has also concluded and the next steps are now being agreed, along with the implications for the Day One operating model. This was to be confirmed before the end of the next quarter.

The implementation budget breakdown is: Strategic Oversight $22,800; Establishment Team $2,727,156; Governance, legal and Policy $781,700; Finance and Commercial $199,250; Asset management, capital delivery and operations $200,000; Organisational Design, People and Capability $308,573; Digital Strategy: Corporate Systems and Capability and Customers $1,501,538; Communications and Engagement $244,000 Council costs $93,556 and Contingency $621,476. Total Implementation Budget $6,700,049.

Dry conditions intensifying across Horizons Region

Horizons Regional Council's environmental data monitoring network is showing dry weather conditions taking hold across the region, including Ruapehu, with forecasts indicating conditions are likely to get drier.

Horizons group manager regional services and information Ged Shirley says Earth Sciences NZ is forecasting a significant El Niño weather event to impact the country from now until well into 2027.

"Earth Sciences NZ is forecasting the intensity of this El Niño event to more likely than not be the strongest on modern record.

"We are seeing the impact of El Niño now, with our rainfall monitoring network showing actual rainfall across the Horizons Region as being well below average for the past four months."

Ruapehu District has 10 sites showing low rainfall status on Horizons' map, as well as four at below average and one at average. No sites show above average or high.

This comes on the back of three years of drier-than-normal weather conditions across the region, says Shirley.

"While there have been large rain events in this time, data collected from our monitoring network shows we have not seen the consistent rain required to meet average rainfall totals."

This lack of rainfall has impacted groundwater sources, with Horizons' groundwater monitoring network showing deficits compared to the long-term average, says Shirley.

Groundwater monitoring sites are especially dry at the moment.

Shirley says now is the time for people to start preparing for a dry summer.

"We know many farmers and growers have been taking steps to be prepared for a drier summer, but we are encouraging everyone to take it seriously – especially those with stock to care for – including lifestyle block owners.

"Being prepared can include checking water tanks, pumps, troughs and pipes to ensure the water you have is stored safely and used efficiently, irrigating to keep soil moisture levels up before drier conditions take hold, and considering land use for the coming months."

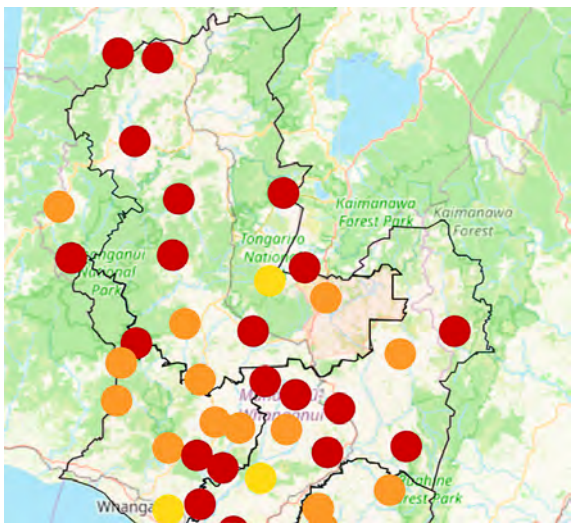
Horizons will be monitoring the situation and has created a dry weather hub on its website to make it easy to access data and information about conditions, says Shirley.

"This hub is a one-stop shop for people wanting information about dry weather conditions in the Horizons Region. This hub will be regularly updated as conditions change, and we are working to create a data dashboard that visualises conditions across different parts of the region.

"We operate an extensive environmental monitoring network, with more than 800 sites collecting data on rainfall, river heights and flows, groundwater levels and much more. Presenting this data in easy-to-understand ways will help to make it easier for people to make informed decisions.

"Our Emergency Management staff are in close contact with their counterparts at other councils across the region, as well as the rural sector and Rural Support Trusts via the Rural Coordination Group. The Rural Co-ordination Group leads a range of agencies in the primary industries to prepare for and respond to adverse events."

For more information, see https://www.horizons.govt.nz/farmers-toolkit/dry-weather-hub.



Ruapehu's low rainfall spots in red, below average in orange.

We have a winning photo!

We received dozens of entries to the Whakapapapa Photo Competition and the judges have decided on the winning photo. Once we have contacted the winner to tell them the news, we'll let you know – in next week's issue.

Bulletin a Media Council member

The *Ruapehu Bulletin* is a member of the NZ Media Council and subject to its complaints procedure. Complaints about stories must first be directed in writing to us – ed@ruapehubulletin.co.nz – within 20 working days of the story being published. If you are not satisfied with our response you can complain to Media Council - Complaints. You will need to attach a copy of the article you complain about and any correspondence you have had with us. – *Editor*

Ruapehu Events & What's On

NOVEMBER 2026

Ruapehu Māori Culture Festival **5 Nov**
Raetihi Primary School. Contact Kay Henare kayhenare06@gmail.com

DECEMBER 2026

Raetihi Christmas Festival **12 Dec**
Contact Kay Henare kayhenare06@gmail.com

For all your ski board and bike rental needs

TCB

Ski, Board & Bike
Cnr Ayr St & Goldfinch St, Ohakune
06-385-8433 tcb.nz

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LINK YOUR EVENT TO EVENTFINDA FOR FREE

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Call 06 385 8532 to list your business here or email ads@ruapehubulletin.co.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)**
Open every day. Menu includes our delicious big breakfast, creamy mushrooms, homemade soups, wedges, nachos, toasties, waffles and more ... Volcanic coffee, muffins & scones, real fruit smoothies and thick shakes. Dine in or takeaway. Onsite parking. **www.lknz.co.nz**

POWDERKEG
Bottom of the mountain road **Ph: 06 385 8888**
For over 35 years, The Powderkeg has been serving up exceptional food and service in a warm, welcoming atmosphere. Whether you're enjoying a sunny afternoon on our spacious balcony or indulging in our weekly specials like Sushi Fridays and Smokehouse Sundays, there's always something to look forward to. Join us for an unforgettable dining experience and follow us on Instagram @powderkegbar for the latest updates and mouthwatering offers! Matterhorn Restaurant – Breakfast daily: 7am – 10:30am; The Powderkeg daily: 2pm – late; Sushi Fridays only: 11am – 2pm

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

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

RDC approves Horopito Hub study

From Page 1

but we need to consider the risks."

Approval would enable detailed design, confirmation of land tenure and consenting requirements, and procurement planning, stated the report.

Site

The Horopito Hub site is located on privately owned land at the corner of SH4 and Matapuna Road. The land owners have a long-standing connection to Horopito and the next generation of this family are strongly supportive of tourism growth and the Mountains to Sea vision.

The proposed land tenure arrangement is a lease in perpetuity, with a potential pathway for future transfer of the land into public or trust ownership.

Before construction commitments are made, Council will need to confirm and document an acceptable arrangement that protects the public investment and provides enduring rights of access, use and maintenance. The arrangement will also need to clarify ownership of the completed assets and the respective responsibilities of Council, the landowners and Ngā Ara Tūhono Charitable Trust.

Risks are involved with not proceeding with the project, councillors were told.

Cr Hoeta said that not having the facility risks losing the Great Ride status.

The report stated that the risk of not proceeding would mean that the existing gap in formal visitor facilities and experiences would remain, including the current unsafe roadside stopping and parking.

Lynley Twyman from the Mountains to Sea trust spoke to the council, with information on the plans and funding application to the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy allocation.

She said the Trust's aim is for the Mountains to Sea trail to become self sustainable.

"We're well aware that ratepayers are struggling but we're also well aware that we have obligations as a Great Ride … we cannot afford to lose our Great Ride status.

"The rides are starting to deliver results, creating jobs."

She said that around New Zealand, trusts operate and maintain the rides and local authorities own assets such as the Hub.

Resolution

The wording of the final resolution reads that Council:

• Approves up to $25,000 of unbudgeted expenditure to undertake feasibility and due diligence for the Horopito Hub project, including further project design, confirmation of land tenure arrangements, and assessment of the ongoing operating, maintenance and renewal costs and associated funding arrangements;

• Requires the Horopito Hub project to be brought back to Council for further consideration and approval before it is included as an unbudgeted capital project or any construction commitments are made; and

• Notes that, should the project proceed and the expenditure be eligible under the external funding agreement, the due diligence expenditure will be incorporated into the $405,000 International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy project funding.

Master weaver calls for revival of papa whāriki at Whanganui River marae

By Moana Ellis

Master weaver Trina Taurua is calling on weavers connected to Whanganui River marae to help revive the tradition of weaving and using papa whāriki (woven mats).

Taurua's initiative aims to restore the practice while passing traditional knowledge to future generations.

"I've called on our iwi, our hapū, our marae and our people to revitalise all our marae, to adorn our marae, because that's what we lack now," Taurua says.

"The patterning and everything that we have on the whāriki are the narratives of each marae. If it's not about whakapapa, it's about history, how the marae begat, who the tūpuna were."

Taurua has developed the Papa Whāriki initiative to help strengthen the skills of kairaranga (weavers), preserve the techniques associated with raranga, and reconnect communities with an important part of marae life.

A respected figure in the weaving world, Taurua tutored at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa in Whanganui for 15 years and has spent many years adorning marae with tukutuku and whāriki. Her work includes leading the adornment of the whare tipuna at Waitangi Marae, on her father's side.

She recently exhibited as a master weaver in He Puna Tohunga at the inaugural Festival of Design Aotearoa in Whanganui and in the accompanying fringe exhibition, Ora Te Toi.

Interest from weavers along the Whanganui River has opened the way for a new programme spanning Te Awa Tupua, with participants from as far upriver as Taumarunui.

At an introductory session for river-connected kairaranga, Taurua put out a call for experienced weavers. Thirty-four have already signed up.

"It is usually two wāhine per whāriki, so we'll have 17 whāriki for 17 marae nō te awa."

The first wānanga is planned for the first weekend of November, with Taurua encouraging more local weavers to join.

"If you're a kairaranga from the river, nau mai haere mai."

Taurua says restoring whāriki to marae is about more than the craft itself. The mats carry the stories, whakapapa, histories and memories of the communities they belong to, while serving practical and ceremonial purposes.

Whāriki can be used during tangihanga, providing a place for the deceased to rest, and for kawe mate and other kaupapa when photographs are displayed. They also have a place in everyday whānau and marae life.

The Te Awa Tupua programme is expected to take about two months, beginning with the preparation of harakeke.

Taurua has asked participants to prepare 1000 whenu, or strands, for their whāriki: 800 natural and 200 coloured. The colours will help tell each marae's story through the patterns chosen by the weavers.

"The colours would be the narrative and the kōrero and the history, depending on what they choose for the patterns."

After the initial wānanga, the teams will continue weaving at home, with Taurua visiting participants individually to provide guidance and support.

"I do the rounds, one-on-one sessions in their homes. It works," she says.

The weaving takes just over a month, after which each team will present its completed whāriki to the marae.

The programmes have been funded by iwi entities Ngā Rauru Kiitahi and Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui. Taurua is hoping also to take the kaupapa to Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa in the near future.

Local Democracy Reporting is local body journalism co-funded by RNZ and NZ On Air



Interest from weavers along the Whanganui River has opened the way for master weaver Trina Taurua's new Papa Whāriki kaupapa. Photo: Moana Ellis.

Master weaver Trina Taurua with her Papa Whāriki displayed at this month's inaugural Festival of Design Aotearoa in Whanganui. Photo supplied.

Tracer round believed to have sparked large Waiouru scrub fire

Crews on the ground at the fire in the Waiouru Army Training area have used the improved weather conditions on Sunday, to extend and strengthen containment lines.

Fire and Emergency Incident controller Craig Cottrill says that ground conditions have improved enough to get vehicle access to some of the harder-to-reach areas of the fire.

"As of this afternoon (Sunday) the fire is 83 percent contained including a 30m-wide strip that has been checked by drones and ground crews. The remaining areas will take a bit of hard work for crews to dig out and extinguish remaining hot spots."

Planning was completed by the Incident Management Team for a handover of control back to the New Zealand Defence Force on Monday 2 November.

"Fire and Emergency will continue to support the New Zealand Defence Force Incident Management Team by providing firefighting crews and specialists through the coming week," Craig Cottrill says.

Waiouru Firemaster and operations manager for this incident, New Zealand Army Staff Sergeant Matthew Anker, says: "Working alongside FENZ through such a complex and challenging incident over the past seven days has been invaluable for me and the team.

"On behalf of the NZDF, I want to thank Fire and

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Letters

Community losing

• Thursday night (Wednesday 28 October) I attended a public meeting where residents were asked which council services they would be prepared to cut in order to keep rates down.

I left with a sinking feeling. Not because people don't understand the pressure of rising costs. Families across our district are counting every dollar. Farmers, pensioners, wage earners and small business owners are all feeling the squeeze. What troubled me was something deeper.

Communities like ours are no longer being asked what future we want to build. Instead, we are being asked what we are prepared to give up.

Which services can go? Which facilities can close? Which projects should be abandoned? Which opportunities should we deny the next generation?

Recently I raised the issue of deprivation in our district with National MP Carl Bates. I spoke about the challenges facing communities such as Taumarunui and Raetihi and the cuts local government is increasingly being forced to contemplate. His response was brief: "We all have to make sacrifices."

Perhaps. But it is worth asking who is being asked to make those sacrifices. It won't be Ministers or Wellington. It will be communities like ours.

Future water costs are becoming one of the biggest drivers of council expenditure, leaving less money available for the services and facilities that help make our towns liveable. Yet while governments talk constantly about the cost of living, affordability seems curiously absent when it comes to the reforms driving those costs.

The uncomfortable truth is that somebody always pays for austerity. More often than not, communities already struggling to attract investment, retain young families, and maintain essential services pay.

I reject that. Thriving communities are built through investment, ambition and a belief that the people who live there matter. As voters consider their choices, I urge them to ask a simple question: what kind of community do we want to leave behind?

Every budget is a statement of values. Every cut is a choice. And every vote is a choice too. A district that stops investing in itself does not stand still. It declines. The greatest sacrifice of all would be to accept that decline as inevitable.

John Chapman, RDC councillor

Green Titanic deckchairs

• As I write this, I don't know what the outcome of the election will be, but we can tell how the outcome will affect local people.

If the capitalist parties maintain control we can expect the gap between the rich minority and the rest of us will widen. Overseas corporations who supported their election advertising will be given more opportunities to asset-strip our natural resources, and taxes for the rich will be reduced even further, resulting in the national debt to rise even higher.

Millionaire Auckland skiers will arrive in even bigger cars, while more of our kids will turn up at school malnourished and unable to concentrate, and more of our elderly will get their power cut off as the data centres built by overseas corporations suck up electricity and make power prices skyrocket.

Three years ago the so-called Association of Consumers and Taxpayers promised to treat all races equally. Working-class Māori consumers and taxpayers had been discriminated against for decades, resulting in their life expectancy being 10 years less than Pakeha, their education standards lower, and jail expectancy six times higher. Thus I expected ACT to remedy these inequalities.

But during their time in power, ACT have slashed funding of state hospitals and schools and given more money to private health and education establishments serving the rich, while Māori men still occupy more than 50% of our prisons.

Labour once stood for the rights of unionised workers and small farmers, while The Greens worked for the survival of future generations by protecting the environment. But the neo-liberals destroyed the unions, and the "Labour" party now support the middle-classes, while the collapse of the environment has now passed its tipping point.

So if these parties regain power, our local bottom-of-the-heap workers and unemployed will still not be represented, and the Green party will be unable to do much more than greenwash the metaphorical "deckchairs on the Titanic."

John Archer

Karioi solar to supply dairy giant

The proposed Karioi solar farm is set to supply electricity to dairy giant Fonterra, which will take 80% of its output, the company working on the project has announced.

ANZA Power has signed this second long-term power purchase agreement, after earlier signing with Fonterra for its Somerton site in Canterbury in June 2026, "providing a strong foundation of contracted offtake to support its progression to financial close and construction", says Carlo Frigerio, CEO, ANZA Power.

The Karioi Solar Farm is planned to deliver 110 MWac of solar generation capacity and will connect directly to the national grid at Transpower's Tangiwai substation. Once operational, the project is expected to generate approximately 215,000 MWh of renewable electricity annually.

"Signing a second offtake with Fonterra, only a few months after Somerton, is a strong endorsement of our partnership," says Frigerio.

"It brings construction one step closer at Karioi, a consented, construction-ready project in the central North Island. We are excited by the opportunities in the New Zealand market and are proud that Karioi will support Fonterra, a long-standing co-operative that is a positive force for economic growth in New Zealand's regions, including the Ruapehu District."

Karioi Solar Farm, near Tangiwai, will remain in agricultural production through ongoing sheep grazing.

Karioi is one of two North Island solar farms ANZA Power recently announced it is acquiring from Helios Energy, and follows the Somerton Solar Farm in Canterbury.

ANZA says it is backed by a US$300 million equity commitment from global infrastructure investor I Squared Capital.

ANZA Power says it acknowledges and thanks Ngā Waihua o Paerangi Trust (Ngāti Rangi) and Te Korowai o Wainuiārua Trust for their continued partnership on the Karioi Solar Farm.

"Both iwi have worked closely with Helios Energy through the development and consenting of the project, sharing cultural guidance and supporting key approvals."

Land Rovers converge on Ruapehu

Hundreds of exhibitors from all round the country turned up for the Landrover Show at Taumarunui A&P Showgrounds at Labour Weekend.

Two mates with a shared obsession and a patch of land decided to do something that had never been done before – host a Land Rover show.

Simon Henley and Andy Leaning's event took place at the Taumarunui A&P Showgrounds.

"It started over dinner one evening," explains Henley, who has a lifelong passion for Land Rovers.

"I said to my partner 'we've got the land, we've got the community around us and, between Andy and I, we've got enough Land Rovers between us to start a small dealership. Why not put on a show?"

The show was entirely self-funded by Simon and Andy; there were no investors, no corporate backers, and no profit motive. Every single dollar raised goes directly to the Taumarunui Food Bank and the town's two local fire departments.

"This isn't a business venture," says Simon. "It's two mates who love Land Rovers and love their community. Full stop."

Set against the stunning backdrop of King Country, the Show promised a full three days of everything a Land Rover enthusiast could wish for: a swap meet and auto jumble, club displays from Land Rover clubs, live demonstrations, trade and sponsor stalls, food vendors, a kids' area, and on-site camping.

The team also ran a series of "Gentleman Off Roading" trips through the King Country countryside, designed to be accessible and enjoyable for all experience levels.

"We wanted this to be a weekend for everyone," says Andy.

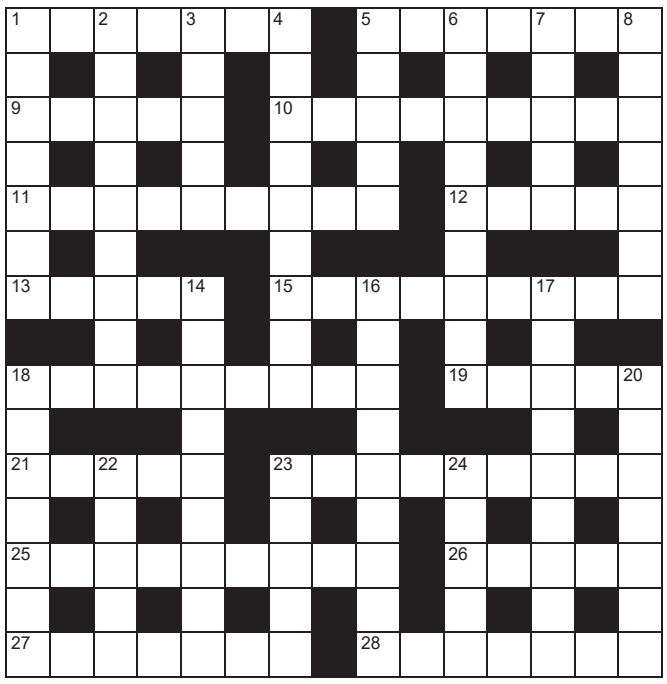
"Whether you've got a 1958 Series 1 that's been in the family for three generations, or you've just taken delivery of a brand-new Defender."

THE WEEKLY WORKOUT

answers for each puzzle are included on this page

875

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

1. Secures (7)
5. Up-and-coming (7)
9. Trunk (5)
10. Reproduce (9)
11. Improving in health (2,3,4)
12. Influence (5)
13. Expertise (5)
15. Conceited, arrogant (3-6)
18. Usually (2,7)
19. Spaghetti or macaroni (5)
21. Oozes (5)
23. Neat, orderly (9)
25. For each person (L) (3,6)
26. Picture (5)
27. Pudding (7)
28. Large arm muscle (7)

Down

1. Silly and pointless (7)
2. Certainty (4,5)
3. Run away to marry (5)
4. Month (9)
5. Wide (5)
6. Inexpensive (colloq) (4,5)
7. US state (5)
8. Welcomed (7)
14. Scenery (9)
16. Gad about (9)
17. Contrasting (9)
18. Bland (7)
20. Eternal (7)
22. Deserves (5)
23. Move (5)
24. Genre of film and writing (3-2)

THE TOP 10

1 Sir Murray Halberg, 2 Honey, 3 Warner Brothers, 4 Apollo, 5 "Like A Prayer", 6 Golden Bay, 7 Red, 8 Canada, 9 Calligraphy, 10 Pregnant.



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

Puzzles © The Puzzle Company

SUDOKU

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

1 HARD

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

2 EASY

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

The Top 10

1. Who was the first New Zealander to run a mile in under four minutes?
2. What sweet substance is added to whisky in making Drambuie?
3. Which US film studios were founded by Harry, Sam, Albert and Jack?
4. What is the name of a Greek god, and a series of NASA missions?
5. Which Madonna single and video were condemned by the Vatican in 1989?
6. Which South Island bay was named Murderers' Bay by Abel Tasman in 1642?
7. Renaissance painter Titian's name is assciated with a shade of what colour?
8. Which country is closest to where the Titanic was found?
9. What is the art of decorative handwriting?
10. If someone is gravid, what are they?

CROSSWORD

Across: 1. Fastens, 5. Budding, 9. Torso, 10. Procreate, 11. On the mend, 12. Clout, 13. Skill, 15. Big-headed, 18. In general, 19. Pasta, 21. Seeps, 23. Shipshape, 25. Per capita, 26. Image, 27. Dessert, 28. Triceps.
Down: 1. Fatuous, 2. Sure thing, 3. Elope, 4. September, 5. Broad, 6. Dirt cheap, 7. Idaho, 8. Greeted, 14. Landscape, 16. Gallivant, 17. Disparate, 18. Insipid, 20. Ageless, 22. Earns, 23. Shift, 24. Sci-fi.

SUDOKU

1

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Councillor struggles to 'see the logic' behind voting rights change

By Rebecca Hogan, LDR

Regional councillor Elijah Pue says he "fails to see the logic" in a law change that removed voting rights from non-elected members on council committees.

Horizons Regional Council acknowledged on Tuesday that members would be impacted on its climate action joint committee, passenger transport committee and the regional transport committee.

In June, the Government announced it would change the law so only elected councillors could vote on council committees.

Councils would not be able to appoint iwi representatives, those under the age of 18 and other "unelected" members as full voting members on committees, and they would no longer count towards a meeting's quorum.

Pue said he was "struggling to understand the threat" non-elected members sitting on council committees had on good governance — particularly tangata whenua.

Pue said he "fails to see the logic" behind the move, but elected members did not have much choice in the matter other than being able to ask for an exemption.

Local Government Minister Simon Watts said the change "strengthens democratic accountability" by ensuring only those voted in were able to vote.

This legislative restriction would begin in March 2027, with councils given until 18 November to submit an exemption to the minister and governor-general.

Councillor Fiona Gordon asked if the council and its impacted committees had time to meet and make a decision about an exemption before then.

Chief executive Michael McCartney said there was no way the council could have a meaningful decision by 18 November, with the climate action joint committee's next meeting in early December.

He suggested the council write to the minister by 18 November, telling him that Horizons would have an exemption through by the end of the year.

On the change, councillor Hamish Easton said: "I've always been a bit of a believer that if you want to have a say, go get elected."

The Department of Internal Affairs found every council in Aotearoa had at least one committee with an external member on it during a 2022-25 review.

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



Horizons councillor Elijah Pue says he's "struggling to understand the threat" non-elected members, particularly tangata whenua, have on a council committee's governance.



Horizons chief executive Michael McCartney says there's "no way we can have a meaningful decision on this by 18 November" and the council will need to write to the minister. Photo: Warwick Smith, Manawatū Standard.



Land Rovers of all types and ages converged on Taumarunui for Simon Henley and Andy Leaning's meet. See story opposite. Photo supplied.

No podium at Timbersports World Champs

Both the New Zealand team and individual competitor, Shane Jordan from Ruapehu, failed to make the podium in their respective competitions at the Stihl Timbersports World Championship in Stuttgart, Germany over the weekend.

The Kiwis were pipped by less than two tenths of a second by a resurgent Polish team in their quarter final knockout – ultimately finishing 5th out of the 20 teams, while Jordan finished fourth overall in the 12-strong individual event – just one point shy of third place.

Although Jordan missed the podium by the slimmest of margins, he still managed five personal bests and a national record across his six Timbersport disciplines. His PB's came in the Underhand Chop, Stock Saw, Springboard, Hot Saw and Standing Block events, with the latter also being a new national record time of 11.97 seconds.

Shane was trying to emulate what his younger sibling of 10 years, Jack, achieved last year in winning the biggest prize in international wood chopping. It's eight years since Shane last earned the honour of representing New Zealand in the individual world championship when he finished third overall in 2019.

This year's individual champion was last year's runner-up, Australian Brayden Meyer, securing his second world title.

In a dramatic team competition, Team Canada made history claiming a world record-breaking time in their finals battle against the United States – winning their first Stihl Timbersports team world championship.

The 10-time reigning world champs, Australia's Chopperoos, rounded out the team medal positions after suffering a huge upset defeat to the United States in their semi-final.



Shane Jordan in action at the World timber sports games. Photo supplied.

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Authorised by J de Joux, partysecretary@national.org.nz

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Ruapehu wins award for jobs scheme

Ruapehu has won the Top Performer Award at the inaugural Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) Awards for achieving the strongest results nationally against its original contracted employment target.

The Ruapehu team helped 75 young people into meaningful employment, exceeding its target of 45 placements by 67%.

Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) brings together mayors across Aotearoa to champion locally led employment solutions, with a vision of all young people aged 16–25 engaged in employment, education or training.

Through its Community Employment Programme (CEP), a partnership with the Ministry of Social Development (MSD), MTFJ supports young people into work in rural and provincial communities.

Presenting the award, MTFJ national manager at Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Tammie Metcalfe acknowledged Ruapehu's mayor Weston Kirton's leadership, Council and MSD staff support, and the hard mahi of the Ruapehu MTFJ team.

"Through sheer grit, determination and a refusal to give up on Ruapehu's young people, you have shown what can be achieved by small-town New Zealand when central and local government play to their strengths and support local solutions focused on the community," she said.

Metcalfe praised the Ruapehu MTFJ team for consistently going above and beyond, remaining available and finding ways to help the next young person who needed support.

"Thank you for your determination, your heart, and your belief in your young people," she said.

MTFJ co-ordinator James Towers highlighted the strong working relationship between MTFJ and MSD that was a major factor in the success of the Ruapehu programme.

"MSD staff's exceptional support and shared commitment to positive outcomes for Ruapehu rangatahi have been vital to our success and helped us win the Top Performer Award," he said.

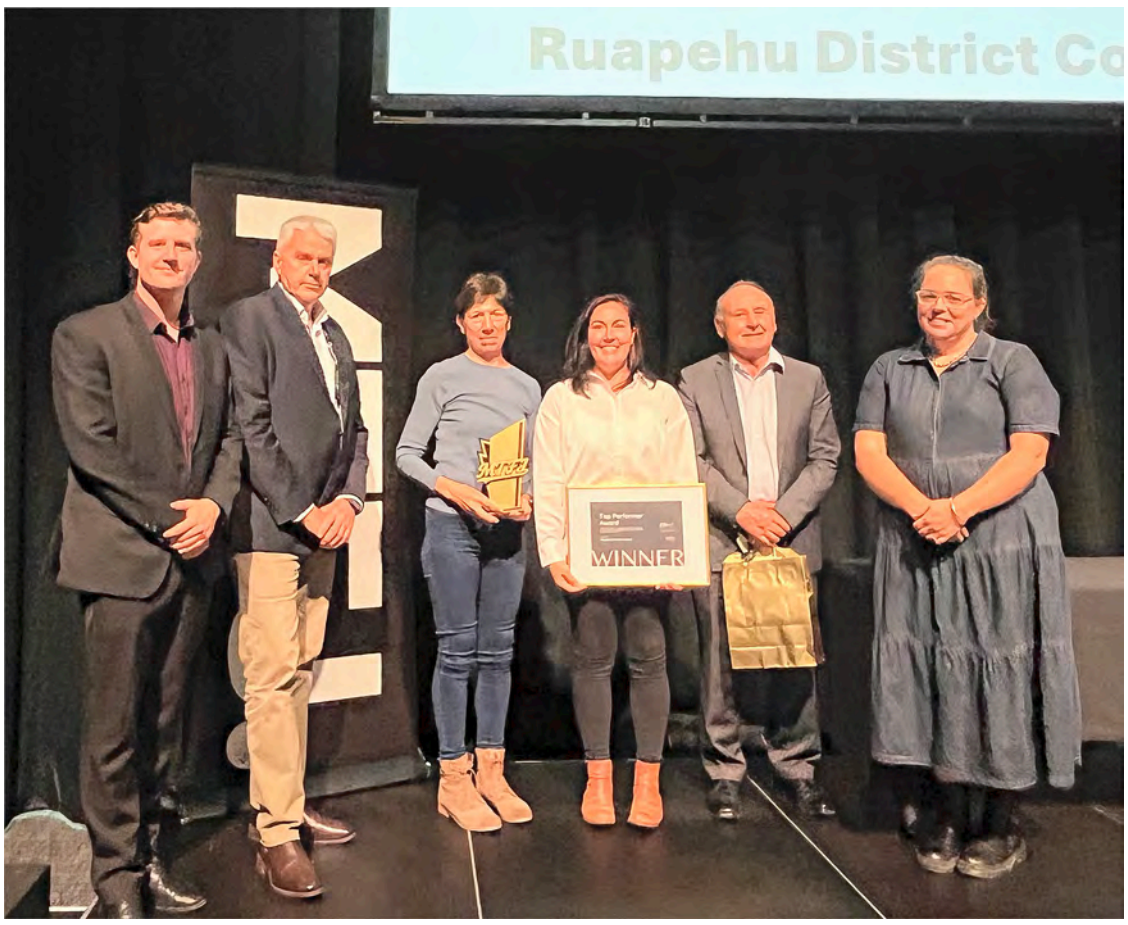
Kirton said MTFJ was a critical lifeline for young people facing limited opportunities in a tough economy.

"In these hard economic times, our youth are often the first to feel the impact, whether through limited job opportunities or disruptions to their education," he said.

"MTFJ offers them a pathway forward through education, employment, training or other experiences.

The programme has gone from strength to strength in Ruapehu, and this award recognises the outstanding work of our local team.

"On behalf of Council and the community, I sincerely thank the Government for its financial support, MSD staff for their commitment, and the Ruapehu MTFJ team for their mahi in helping our rangatahi build a future in the district," he said.



Ruapehu Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) accept their Local Government NZ (LGNZ) Top Performer Against Original Target (Community Employment Programme) Award. From left, MTFJ chair mayor Ben Bell, James Towers MTFJ Ruapehu contract holder, Louise McCoard co-ordinator, Tristyn Marshall co-ordinator, Weston Kirton, Tammie Metcalfe LGNZ. Absent: Marama Laurenson.

Exhibition celebrates icon from Ruapehu



Carmen Tione Rupe, as the world of Wellington nightlife remembers her.

Fifteen years after her passing, Carmen Tione Rupe's legacy is celebrated with aroha in a major exhibition at Wellington Museum.

Carmen – an icon of the Wellington nightlife scene for many decades – was born in Taumarunui and has family connections to Raetihi.

The exhibition is on now at Wellington Museum, Jervois Quay, Wellington, 10am - 5pm to daily.

"This is the first time her gowns, photographs, personal archives, korowai and a recreation of Carmen's International Coffee Lounge have been displayed together," says Robin Waerea and Jurgen Hoffman, who manage Carmen's estate and have supported the museum to stage this exhibition to honour Carmen Rupe.

Carmen was a businesswoman, entertainer and equality advocate.

More information can be found on Wellington Museum website via this link: https://www.museumswellington.org.nz/arohanui-carmen-xx

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Culture time



It's that time of the year when kapa haka is on show at Raetihi School, with schools from arond Ruapehu taking part. See advert P3 for details.

Ōwhango efforts trashed as trees stolen

In a blow to dedicated volunteers, a large number of recently planted native trees have been stolen from Ohinetonga Scenic Reserve in Ōwhango.

Planted by volunteers from Ōwhango Alive, with support from the Department of Conservation, the trees were part of ongoing efforts to improve local waterways and enhance biodiversity.

Mark Fredericks, chair of Ōwhango Alive, says the theft of the plants is disheartening.

"Dismay was the main feeling, going back to check on the planting and finding 40-odd trees missing," says Mark.

"These trees were donated by local businesses and planted by eager volunteers on World Rivers Day in September. It's upsetting to see this community effort undermined."

"However, it will not deter us from future work for nature. The show must go on!"

Ohinetonga Scenic Reserve is a favourite with locals out naturing. Ōwhango Alive volunteers have regular working bees to rid the reserve of weeds like blackberry and privet. The recent planting aimed to fill a freshly weed-free area with natives instead.

"We planted a mix of natives, including ribbonwood, kahikatea, five-finger, so over time it would become a diverse native bush with plenty of food and habitat for birds and lizards," says Mark.

Ōwhango Alive has a mission to protect and enhance the environment of the Ohinetonga Reserve, Whakapapa River, and Ōwhango village for the benefit of native flora and fauna, and the enjoyment of locals and visitors. New volunteers are welcome. Find information and contact details at owhangoalive.com.

DOC Tongariro acting operations manager George Taylor says the theft is extremely disappointing.

"These projects are driven by people who care deeply about their local environments and want to make a difference for future generations," says George.

"Despite this setback, I'm inspired to see Ōwhango Alive volunteers remain committed to their vision. DOC will continue to support their efforts, and we encourage the community to get behind future restoration events.

"As a wider community we can back what's important to us, and show that the people who take and undermine are a minority."

Removing or wilfully damaging trees in a reserve is an offence under the Reserves Act 1977 and can result in a fine of up $100,000 and two years in jail. If the offending continues, further fines of $10,000 a day can be imposed.

Anyone with information regarding the missing trees is asked to contact 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468) citing case identification CLE-13012.



A community effort on World Rivers Day has been undermined by theft. From left, Tania Bramley of NZ Landcare Trust, Ōwhango Alive chair Mark Fredericks, and volunteer Ian Murray were disappointed to find around 40 trees removed. Credit: Ōwhango Alive.

Ruapehu Bulletin

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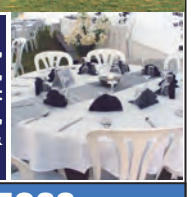


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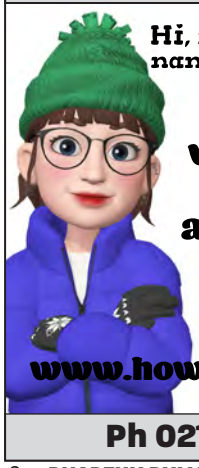


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Career change leads to award for linesman

A career change from skydiving to the electricity industry has led The Lines Company's Adam Saunders to a national award at this year's Connexis Annual Connection.

Adam won the Connexis Leadership Award, a trophy awarded to the most outstanding line mechanic team leader during the live three-day competition.

Adam joined TLC as a line mechanic in September 2024 before being promoted into his current role of team leader. Hearing the announcement during the awards ceremony came as quite a surprise.

"I wasn't expecting to hear my name called," said Adam.

"Especially knowing some of the other team leaders who took part in the event and the high standards they brought to their teams throughout the event. It was quite humbling."

Adam's journey into the electricity sector was unusual. Before becoming a line mechanic, he worked in skydiving, filming tandem jumps. When COVID disrupted that work, he needed a new direction.

An opportunity with Horizon Networks in Whakatāne opened the door to an apprenticeship and a career in electricity distribution. He trained as a line mechanic at Horizon Networks and later worked for a small Rotorua contracting company undertaking work for Unison Networks, before joining TLC.

Along the way, Adam says he has been fortunate to work with team leaders and managers who have led by example. And leading by example was exactly Adam's approach during the three-day event, and the leadership style he provides his team in his role with TLC.

For Adam, the crew is a big part of what makes coming to work worthwhile. He enjoys seeing trainees develop their skills and become qualified line mechanics, providing opportunities that benefit them beyond their current roles.

Sharing knowledge is something he values and his leadership approach to this is straightforward.

"If you know something that could help someone else develop further, pass it on," he said.

Adam sees plenty of possibilities for people considering the electricity industry, from working in the field to exploring the other career pathways the sector offers. He encourages people to apply for the trainee line mechanic opportunities TLC offers each year, describing the company as a great place to work and an apprenticeship as the start of a rewarding career with plenty of pathways to explore.

Asked where an apprenticeship could take someone starting out today, his answer is simple: "It could take you anywhere."

The line mechanic team of Adam, Kerehama Marshall-Hepi, Tallis Karaitiana and Riddick Rangitonga also won the Electrical Theory category for the three-day competitive event.



Adam Saunders (holding award), winner of the Connexis Leadership Award at this year's Annual Connection. Pictured with teammates from left Jordan Hughes, Tallis Karaitiana, Kerehama Marshall-Hepi, Riddick Rangitonga and Joel Williams.

Ruapehu Bulletin

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

Section 101, Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012

Ruapehu Distillery Limited has made an application to the District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council for the **Renewal and Variation of an Off Licence** in respect of the premises situated at **8 Kowhai Crescent, Ohakune** known as **Ruapehu Distillery. The variation refers to the following: To amend the earliest licensed hour from 11.00am to 9.00am.** The general nature of the business to be conducted under the licence is that of a **Bottle Store.** The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is intended to be sold under the licence are: **Monday to Sunday 9.00am – 7.00pm** The application may be inspected during ordinary office hours at the office of the Ruapehu District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council, 59-63 Huia Street, Taumarunui.

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

No objections to the issue of a licence may be made in relation to a matter other than a matter specified in section 105(1) of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

This is the second publication of this notice. The first notice was published on 28 October 2026.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

RUAPEHU OUR GREATER OUTDOORS

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On Saturday 14th November 2026

Shareholders will be asked to consider and vote on a proposal relating to the next stage of the **Pipiriki Hub project**.

A project update will be provided prior to the vote.

Transport to the hui will be provided by bus, departing from Osteria Restaurant Ohakune at 9.00am with a further pickup in Raetihi at the Medical Centre on Seddon St.

For more information, documents, and updates, please visit: **www.pipiriki.co.nz**

To assist with catering and transport arrangements, please contact Robert Spicer on 06 345 1166.

Shareholder registration opens at 9am on the day.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Ruapehu College Senior Prizegiving 2026

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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HINENGAKAU MAATUA WHANGAI

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday, 20th November 2026
15 Manuaute Street, Taumarunui
Commencing at 10:00am

Agenda

1. Karakia and mihi
2. Attendance and apologies
3. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and matters arising
4. Chairperson's report
5. Financial report and adoption of annual financial statements
6. Operations report
7. Appointment of auditor
8. Trustee matters
9. General business
10. Karakia whakamutunga

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Forest abuzz with rumour

by JEAN NORMAN

All sorts of rumours and speculation are flying around the Karioi State Forest this week. There's talk of up to a third of the workers there losing their jobs, there's talk of strike action and of the whole community suffering because of it.

The fact is that working conditions haven't even been negotiated for workers going into the newly formed Forestry Corporation and Palmerston North P.S.A. Secretary Alan Miller has told the Bulletin that if negotiations do not start shortly the Association will go back to the workers to vote on possible action.

"So far the Corporation has acted in a high-handed, arrogant and what some would call facist manner," said Mr Miller.

"It is clear that the Corporation intend managing the forests in a different way and that it will have different effects in different areas. Karioi may escape as it is more remote."

He said that the Association had not been advised of any specific proposal for the central district and that they were most concerned about negotiating some sort of agreement.

A spokesman for the workers at Karioi said that he knows there will be job losses and that severance pay and relocation are not going to solve anything.

"There's specialised men out there and some of them have been doing the same job for 15 to 25 years. Now retraining would be pretty awkward wouldn't it," said the spokesman, who declined to be named.

He also felt that local businesses would suffer from the loss of salaries being spent in the area and was concerned about housing for those affected by any cut-back in staffing.

Official word is that there will be no formal announcement till this Friday (7 November). The Assistant Conservator of Operations, Ian Glennie, said a paper will be released on that date which will detail any changes being made by the Corporation.

Mr Glennie knew there were discussions going on at the moment about staffing in the new Corporation but could not comment.

Friday should shed some light into the wilderness and maybe even resolve some fears. But there may be bitterness, despair and confusion to rival the recent railways re-organisation.

Councillor resigns

Cr John Martin, Waimarino County member for the Karioi riding, resigned last week for health reasons.

John Martin has been a Waimarino County Councillor for 21 years and served as deputy chairman for six of those years.

He told the *Bulletin* last week that this total commitment to local body affairs has taken its toll and he wants to take a spell.

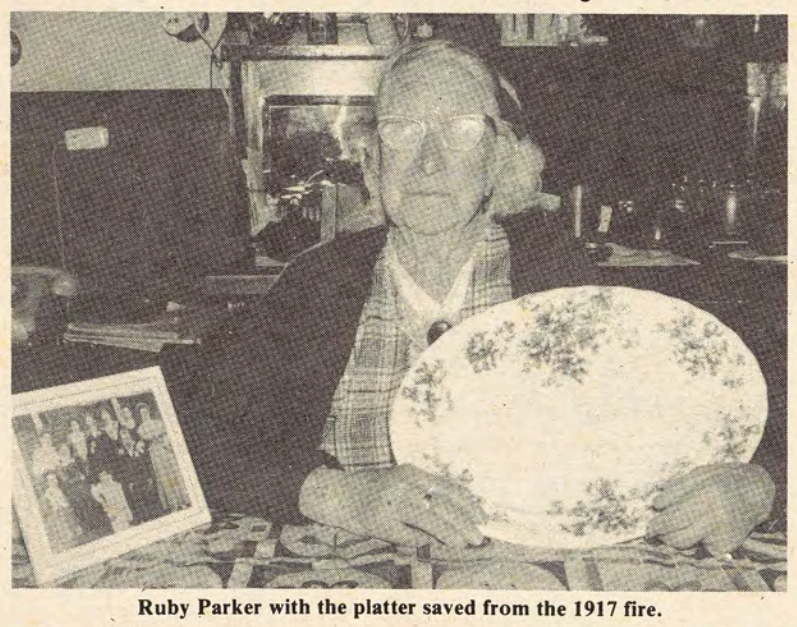
"I've been under stress for some time particularly since my friend and colleague Malcolm Whale died suddenly two months ago."

"I haven't sown a single oat (60 acres), I haven't docked a single lamb nor shorn a single fleece in the last two months," he said.

"But I am prepared to come back some time in the future and serve the County and the people in the Karioi riding again if I'm wanted."

Meanwhile the Waimarino County is calling for nominations to fill the two places left vacant by the death of Cr Malcolm Whale and the resignation of Cr John Martin (see Public Notices).

Celebrates 101 birthday in bed



Ruby Parker with the platter saved from the 1917 fire.

Pictured above is Ruby Parker, now the oldest resident of the Waimarino.

She celebrated her 101th birthday last Thursday at the Wanganui Hospital. She's not sick though, it's just a fractured leg.

Originally from a farming family in Victoria, Australia, she married Irishman Paddy Parker and came to New Zealand in 1910.

The couple had eight children and Mrs Parker now has numerous great and even great-great grandchildren. Sadly the 64 year long marriage ended in 1974, with the death of her husband.

The beautiful plate in the photo is one she salvaged from the savage fire which swept through Raetihi in 1917.

WELL-KNOWN WAIMARINO IDENTITY FAREWELLED

"A terrific father and a man who was in love with the Waimarino," is how Graham Dixon of Ohakune described his father Eric Charles Dixon, who passed away recently after a long illness.

"Pop" Dixon as he was affectionately known by family and close friends was a well-known character around the area. He and his wife Doris moved to Ohakune from Christchurch in 1937.

He originally came to the Waimarino alone during an employment slump in Christchurch, with the intention of finding a job.

On the first night he arrived in Karioi, he rang Doris to ask her to send him the fare so he could return home because the area was "all stumps."

He found a job as a truck driver and mechanic in Ohakune working for a time at George Sergeant Motors before becoming a self employed mechanic.

Eric opened his own garage on the site of the Sports Country Gymnasium in Clyde Street in the 1940's.

He was a skilled tradesman in his field and later branched into panel-beating and spray painting.

He also ventured into repairing tractors and was virtually the only tractor mechanic in the area for many years.

Eric loved the great outdoors, especially the bush areas, and preferred to fix tractors on site rather than transporting them back to his garage.

'Dixon's Creek' was named after Eric following a near-fatal accident when he was riding on a load of logs behind a rail tractor.

The carriage was dislodged from the tractor and logs tumbled on top of Eric into the stream. There was a moment when the tractor driver thought Eric had been crushed beneath the load, but was found sitting on a rock in the stream, cursing and throwing anything within reach.



Eric and Doris Dixon stand in a loving embrace while celebrating their golden wedding anniversary earlier this year.

After he turned 60 he semi-retired and worked for the Ohakune produce markets for 14 years.

Eric served for 17 years in the Ohakune volunteer fire brigade which has become something of a tradition in the Dixon family with his son Graham who served for 18 years, and his grandson Duane also in the Brigade.

Even in his retirement, Eric maintained an interest in the Brigade and spent a lot of time with his family and grandchildren.

"Dad was renowned for his temper," said Graham laughingly.

"When he gave me a hiding as a kid which wasn't very often, it was the sort of hiding you wouldn't forget."

Doris and Eric Dixon celebrated their golden wedding anniversary earlier this year, and Eric's 79th birthday was in September.

He was also involved with the former Sunbeam Club, which used to operate where the Sunbeam Ski Lodge now stands. In his time with the club he was president for a number of years.

Eric's illness meant that he had to give up a number of interests, which was the reason for his early retirement from the Fire Brigade and imposed limits on his job.

He had to give up spray-painting earlier in life because of the effect on his lungs but he still continued pottering around his home and remained very active throughout his retirement.

Eric will be sadly missed by his family (his wife Doris, children and eight grandchildren) and by his many friends and acquaintances forged from a lifetime of involvement in and service to the Waimarino community.

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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

Tracer round believed to have sparked large Waiouru scrub fire

From Page 3

Emergency crews, incident management teams and specialists for their exceptional support, expertise, and dedication in helping us manage and control this fire.

"While we are achieving good containment over the fire ground, significant work remains within the bush sectors to fully extinguish underlying hot spots. Our combined teams will continue working tirelessly in the days ahead to safely return the military training area to standard operations as quickly as possible."

The scrub blaze that broke out in the training area in last Monday, burning through more than 3700 hectares.

On Saturday, Cottrill said crews were working today on locating and extinguishing hot spots identified by a drone team overnight. The crews were reinforced with 20 fresh NZDF personnel, who were to patrol the fire edge to check for further hot spots.

"This part of an incident is where things take a bit longer, as the crews need to identify and locate hot spots, then get resources into remote bush areas to dig them out and completely extinguish them" he says.

There were 66 firefighting personnel on the fireground, with 18 incident management team personnel supporting them along with one helicopter, four pieces of heavy machinery and six 4x4 fire trucks.

NZDF were also supplying other vehicles where needed to move personnel around the fire ground.

Tracer bullet

The Defence Force said they believe a tracer round fired from a 7.62mm machine gun during live-fire training sparked the scrub fire.

The ammunition used during the live-fire training on Sunday (25 October) when the fire started was in belts containing one tracer round for every five rounds fired, the NZDF said in a statement.

FENZ said the area had not increased in size since Wednesday, with the burnt area now covering 3623 hectares.

Incident controller Ben Cozens said crews were facing chilly temperatures on Friday, with strong winds and rain in the afternoon.

The weather could make it harder to the tackle hotspots, he said, however the rain was not expected to be enough to extinguish fires still smouldering in bush areas.

More hotspots had been mapped including through the Te Rei Bush area.

Defence Force personnel and machinery were also working to open existing access tracks so firefighting operations could continue in steep terrain.

Parts of the military training area were beginning to be released for the Defence Force to resume normal operations in, but firefighting was expected to continue for several more days.

The NZDF said live-fire training was essential to maintain the New Zealand Army's combat capability, but the activity could result in fires.

It said fire safety plans and effective co-ordination between the Defence Force and Fire and Emergency were essential to minimising the extent of such fires.

The military said those measures have been demonstrated in the efforts of all parties involved in fighting the blaze.



A large smoke plume could be seen rising over the tussocky Central Plateau landscape near Waiouru, on 26 October. Photo: Sarah Moodie.



Fire and Emergency volunteers and Defence Force personnel have been using hand tools to fight the fire. Photo: Fire and Emergency New Zealand.



Maisey Hammond, winner of the Champion of Champions prize at the Ohakune Primary School Ag Day.

Animals aplenty at school Ag Day

Ag Day at Ohakune Primary School recently was a popular day with children bringing in their lambs and calves for judging, with lots of ribbons prsented.

" An extra special thank you to our incredible organiser, Rita Hammond, for all the time and effort that goes into making this event happen, and to our wonderful judges for giving up their time to support and celebrate our kids," says school principal Lisa Clark.

" We are so grateful to everyone who contributes to making Ag Day such a special part of our school community. It is a real highlight of our year! It's a fantastic opportunity for our tamariki to showcase their hard work, care of their animals and dedication."

She also thanked the sponsors, Sustaina Grow, PGG Wrightson and Water, The Hungry Rush, Placemakers, Ohakune Agronomy, and Catalyst Performance Agronomy for supporting the school's tamariki and "helping make this special day possible".

Results

Senior calves - Bella Cranston champion. Emmy Mott - reserve champion. Harper Evans 1st.

Junior calves Maisy Hammond champion. Lincoln Hammond reserve champion. Maddox Hammond 1st.

Senior lambs Alexis Fredricksen - champion. Bella Cranston reserve champion. Everly Kristiansen 1st.

Junior lambs: Bella Robbie champion. Phillip Proude reserve champion. Justin Fredricksen - 1st.

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