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Ruapehu Bulletin
25 November 2026
Issue No 2133
P: 06 385 8532 E: ads@ruapehubulletin.co.nz



College kids on the fire trucks P2



No bridge for walkers P3



Oturere hut nears end P5



USA elections group visits P6

Ohakune Mountain cycle trail Phase II work starts

Work has started this month on the next stage of Te Ara Mangawhero – the shared cycle and walking path linking Ohakune to Massey Flat below the Tūroa Ski Area base.

Phase Two will create approximately 12.18 km of shared walking and cycling trail from Rimu Hill to Massey Hut on Mt Ruapehu. Phase Two extends and completes the existing Te Ara Mangawhero Phase One trail and will also provide a welcome alternative to the Ohakune Mountain Road section of the Round the Mountain trail.

Local iwi, Ngāti Rangi, is leading the project, with a core team of four staff, plus casual staff when needed, supported by Roam Consultants and trail builders Impel.

The project covers Sections 5–9 through sensitive forest, wetland and alpine environments in Tongariro National Park. Works include trail formation and drainage, four major river bridges – one across the Mangawhero River close to the end of the existing Phase One trail end – smaller bridges and extensive boardwalks, Old Blyth Track works, road crossing and parking interfaces, signs and whakairo, and ecological protection and restoration.

The trail is planned to be Grade 2 (easy) to 3 (intermediate).

Pae Whakahaumaru kaimahi (formerly Ruapehu WorX) and local suppliers will work alongside experienced trail builders and specialist engineering, bridge building, cultural, ecological and archaeological advisers and monitors. The trail will progress sequentially through approved sections from Section 5 linking into the end of Phase one, to Section 9.

Construction is anticipated to take 24 to 36 months, depending on weather, winter stand-down periods, ecological surveys, work-area approvals and "ensuring a quality and resilient build".

Ngāti Rangi says their tikanga and cultural direction will

Turn to Page 2



Ohakune Carrot Park volunteers, from left, Peggy Young, Elayne Mott and Peggy Frew admire some of the 200 or so rhodddendrons donated to the Park 12 years ago. Peggy Frew said back then, Park proponent Dave Scott suggested asking people to donate $50 to the park, in return for having a rhododendron planted, with a name tag added. Peggy Frew says that the Rhododendron Dale is now very well established and encourages anyone – but especially the original donors – to take a stroll down the Dell path to see the show, which should still have a few weeks to go.



College students on the fire trucks



Local volunteer fire brigades have been calling on Ruapehu College students to boost their ranks, with the Waimarino Volunteer Fire Brigade (National Park Village) among them. "Sometimes we hear people talk negatively about the attitude of young people nowadays," states the Brigade. "Here at Waimarino we are proud to have four students from Ruapehu College. They work hard, have the highest rate of attendance at training (demonstrating professional and committed attitude) and add heaps of value with their fun and friendly personalities. They're capable and we're glad to have them." Pictured are Fletcher Parker, Mica Hoyle and Hannah Pettman-Swift who finish Year 13 this month, along with Rebekah Pettman-Swift who has another year to go. "We haven't lost them just yet as they're all keen mountain people so we'll be around for a bit longer." Photo: Waimarino Fire Brigade.

Work starts on next phase of mountain cycle trail

From Page 1

"guide delivery, with care for the maunga, whenua, wai and ngahere".

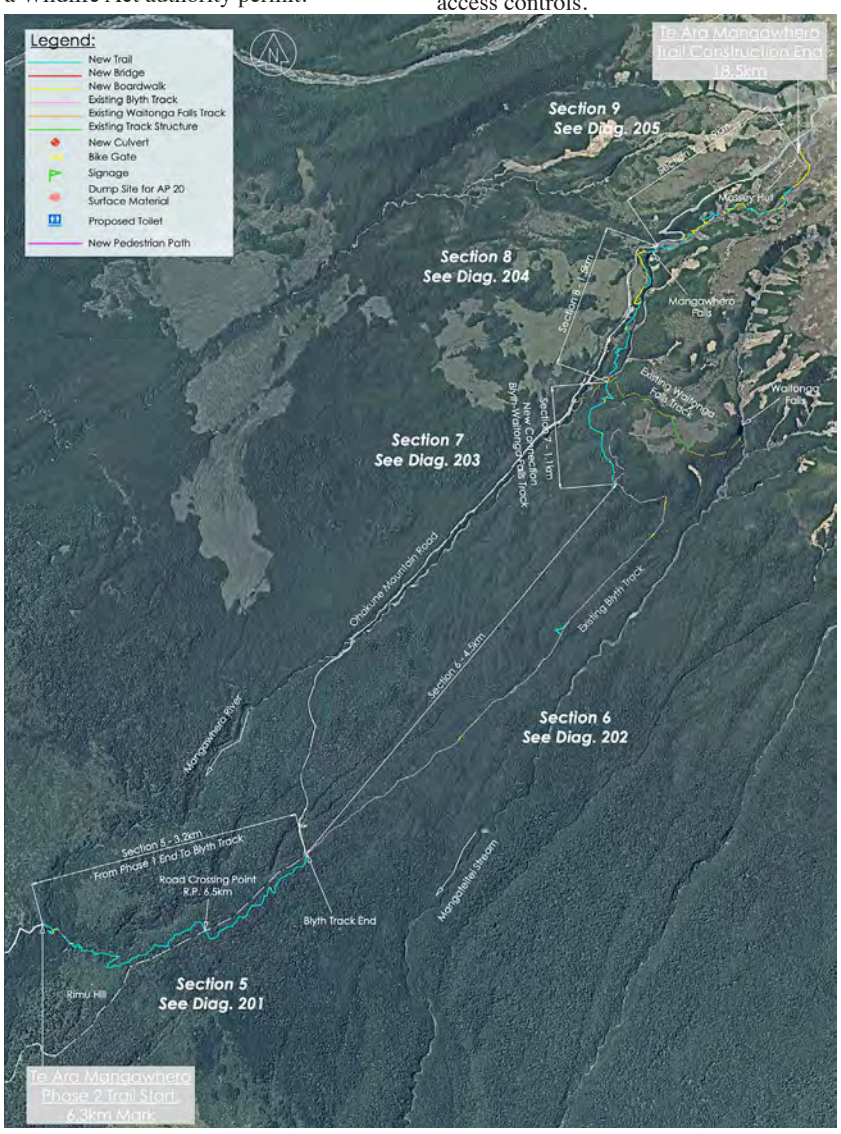
"Cultural and ecological checks inform set-out and work methods. The delivery focus is on creating a high-quality and sustainable trail that reflects the values of this place and enriches the manuhiri (visitor) experience."

Permissions gained to build the trail include a DOC concession and major works approval, Horizons resource consent, and a Wildlife Act authority permit.

Trail development must adhere to extensive conditions set out in these permissions to ensure the protection of this sensitive and valued area.

Ngāti Rangi says each work area will require formal release before work starts. The trail crew and contractors will follow approved designs, site boundaries, safety arrangements and cultural and environmental controls.

Active work areas and incomplete trail and structures will be subject to public access controls.



Phase Two of the construction of the Te Ara Mangawhero shared trail has started, with Section 5 – 3.2km from the 6.3km mark on the existing trail to the start of the Blyth Track.

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Ruapehu Events & What's On

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Community and Emergency Services

Alzheimers Whanganui Inc – Email admin@alzheimerswhanganui.org.nz or for support phone 06-345 8833
Budget Advice – Email waimarinobudgetservices@gmail.com or phone 027 259 5285.
CCS Disability Action (Whanganui) – Sheryl Brightwell 0800-789-654
Child, Adolescent and Sexual Health Nurse – 06-385-5019
Child Youth and Family Service – 0508-326 459
Churches: Anglican, 06-385-4957. **Baptist,** 027-206-1874. **Catholic,** 06-385-8858 or 027 606 5186. **Gospel Chapel,** 06-385-8453. **Presbyterian,** 06-388-0675 or 06-385-8708. **Waiouru – duty chaplain** 06-387-5599 ext 7031 or 021-493-692
Civil Defence – Simon Osborne, Emergency Management Officer (EMO), RDC – 07 895 8188, or 027 220 0569. Simon.Osborne@ruapehudc.govt.nz
CLAW community free legal advice: Whanganui 06-348-8288, 0800 00 36 36
Doctors: In an emergency call 111. Ruapehu Health Ltd 06-385-4211
Information Centres – Ohakune 06-385-8427, Raetihi 06-385-4805
Mountains to Sea – Ngā Ara Tūhono – Lynley Twyman, Trail Manager, +64 21 403036
Ngati Rangi Community Health Centre – 06-385-9580
Plunket Society – Plunket Nurse 06-385-5019
Police and Search & Rescue Emergency, call 111
Ohakune 06-385-0100, Raetihi 06-385-4002, Waiouru 06-387-6884, Military Police 0800-50-11-22
Red Cross – 0800 RED CROSS (0800 733 27677)
Rotary Club Raetihi - Ohakune – 027-344-5669
Ruapehu Budgeting Service Ohakune. Budgeting License No 119423. Email: Ruapehubudgetingservice@gmail.com or call Justin on 0211-735-767
Ruapehu Maori Wardens – Email: ruapehumaoriwardens@gmail.com
Ruapehu Neighborhood Support Groups – Email: Ruapehuneighborhoodgroup@gmail.com or call Justin 0211-735-767
Ruapehu REAP – 0800 00 REAP (0800 007 327)
St John – in an emergency call 111
Taumarunui Counselling Services: For confidential counselling in Waimarino phone 07-895-6393
Victim Support Contact Centre – 0800 842 846
Waimarino Cancer Society: Co-ordinator 06 348 7402
Waimarino Health Care Centre – Raetihi 06-385-5019
Waimarino Community Toy Library – waimarinotoylibrary@gmail.com
Women's Refuge – 0800-REFUGE 0800 73384

Ruapehu Mayor – Weston Kirton, enquiries to 06-385-8364 or 07-895-8188.
Owhango-National Park Community Board:
Peter Zimmer - Chairperson 027 479 1926;Gail Gray - Deputy Chair 027 434 6599; Anthony Gurr 021 487 742; Eddie Marsters 021 108 0279; Murray Wilson 027 542 9079; Luke Pepper - (RDC Rep) 027 329 2849
Taumarunui/Ohura Ward Community Board:
Molly Jeffries, Chairperson 021 431 833; Sophie Stockbridge, Deputy Chairperson 020 401 11190; Johnny Dryden 027 573 4726; Brian Portland 027 558 5585; Oriwia Wanakore 020 498 4088; Robyn Gram (RDC Rep) 027 389 1912
Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board:
John (Luigi) Hotter - Chairperson 027 274 2616; Stu Robinson - Deputy Chairperson 021 024 07657; Kay Henare 027 924 7252; Colin Pakai 021 091 67315; Emma Young 027 347 1457; David (Rabbit) Nottage - (RDC Rep) 021 111 6514

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SH49 footbridge a no-go, says NZTA

Pedestrians travelling between Old Station Road and Ohakune township will have to continue to take their chances on the narrow State Highway 49 road bridge, or hike up to River Road and cross the swingbridge near Shannon Street.

Project advocate Cr Rabbit Nottage contacted NZTA to enquire about progress on a new bridge for pedestrians.

"Our safety team have advised that whilst the footbridge connecting to this area via River Road does require a bit of a further walk, it is the safest option for pedestrians," said Linda Stewart, director regional relationships – Central North Island NZTA.

"At this stage, NZTA has no plans for the construction of a footbridge in this area, and … under the Government Policy Statement on Transport 2024, the likelihood of such a project being prioritised nationally, and securing funding would be very low."

She said NZTA would need to work closely with Ruapehu District Council in the future if subdivisions on the west side of the Mangawhero River were proposed, "to ensure a full assessment of pedestrian access Ohakune was undertaken".

Cr Nottage had advised Stewart that people are taking risks crossing the bridge.

He said there is a foot bridge over the Mangawhero River.

"But for many, it means walking a long way and then even longer back into town.

"We have the Resources Recovery Centre on the northern side of the bridge, which is the busiest shop in town. Lots of people just walk there. They are diverting over 50% from landfilling. Behind, there is the new Millrock subdivision."

From Clyde Street to Ethical Waste is a 10-15 minute walk each way. Taking the swingbridge route is 30 minutes each way.

The state of River Road has also been a concern, with many potholes and is often flooded near the swingbridge.

Resident Susan Price emailed the Ruapehu District Council about the state of River Road – which is a council-owned road – at the start of the year. Since then, the state of the road has not changed.

Nottage said there are lots of new homes with permanent residents, including parents of young children.

Cyclists and walkers are using Old Station Rd as a ring road for exercise, or coming off the Ohakune Old Coach Road.

Nottage said vehicles travel at speed on the bridge.

"For people already on the bridge it can be quite nerve-wracking – nine-axle 50 tonne vehicles thundering past."

Millrock resident, Leah Sims, wrote to the Ruapehu District Council in 2023 asking for support for a solution.

She points out that there is no footpath across the bridge and pedestrians have no choice but to walk along the traffic lane.

The Ruapehu District Council agreed.

"Council appreciates the work being done by Future Ohakune and in putting forward that a bridge may be the solution," RDC chief executive Clive Manly.

"We feel it is a proposal that would be worth looking at in detail."

Leah Sims' walking route also involves walking along Old Station Road, which does not have a footpath and has a speed limit of 100km/h.

"Because the bridge is so long, even if there are no cars in sight at the beginning of the bridge crossing, often there is one on top of me by the time I get to the end of the bridge."

She says because of the limited options, residents have little choice but to use their cars.

Leah Sims has asked the RDC to put in a footbridge from the southern end of the subdivision to the council reserve that makes up the Mangawhero River Track.

"Not only would this option ensure we get more use out of a beautiful existing track and it would be a much more scenic route into town, but it is a much safer option and would mean we don't have to navigate around cars on Old Station Road or on the car bridge as we are entering town.

"Long term, in my opinion, we absolutely need to have a footpath along Old Station Road as well as a safe pedestrian pathway over the bridge."

She also says a bridge would give safer access for cyclists heading up to the Ohakune Old Coach Road.

"I believe such a project would be fair use of our rates money."



River Road is not an easy way to access town from Millrock subdivision. Photo: Susan Price.



Leah Sims crosses the very narrow State Highway 49 bridge in Ohakune over three years ago, with councillor Rabbit Nottage following, to emphasise the issue and provide a safe escort.

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Study funds secured for Ohakune pools plan

Meanwhile, RDC debates future of Ohakune and Raetihi pools

Funding for a feasibility study into plans to revamp the Ohakune Swimming Baths have been secured, with the money coming from the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Project lead Dave Scott said they are now working on hiring consultants to carry out the study.

The news comes as Ruapehu District Council is working on a review of its three council pools – in Ohakune, Raetihi and Taumarunui, including whether to close down one or more pools.

The Ohakune project is to develop the pools to include a commercial operation, that would subsidise the community use of the pools.

While Scott is working on the Ohakune pools future, he says it is vital that Raetihi's pool stays open too.

"Ohakune and Raetihi are two low-economic towns.

"Our project notes are strong and we do not knock Raetihi. They stay open too."

The Ohakune proposal includes a designated hot tub and sauna area, which Scott said would "earn a lot of money".

"We can use those visitors to help pay for the operation of the swimming pool."

An Australasian company – whose name was not provided – would supply the amenities and operate it for the first 10 years, renting it for about $70,000 annually. The spa operations, benefiting tourists, would fund the pool and eventually be passed to a trust.

Raetihi study

The future of the Raetihi pool has been looked at for over a decade, with one of its problems being large, intermittent water leaks.

The Ruapehu District Council is taking feedback on cutting its services, including pools and libraries, to cap rates.

Chief executive Clive Manley said a decision on which pools, including the Taumarunui pool, would be invested in was expected by the end of June next year.

Ohakune-based councillor David "Rabbit" Nottage called for the Raetihi pool's leaks, first identified in 2021, to be fixed "once and for all".

Nottage said he had read in the facility's logbook about leaks of up to 15,000 litres in a day.

"If we start having a real hot summer, hopefully the council's on to it," he said.

Council community and recreational facilities manager Candice McNaught said maintenance work was underway to ready the swimming pool for summer, but staff would see whether the leaks were still an issue once it was up and running.

An in-depth investigation into the leaks would not begin "until I am clear on council's direction regarding aquatic facilities in the Ruapehu as per the recently closed public consultation", she said.

Raetihi residents first requested improvements or a replacement for their town pool in 2017.

A community forum's proposal for a spa or hot pools and operating the pool year-round was "wishful thinking", Nottage said.

"They'd just be happy at this stage to have the leaks fixed."

A feasibility study was done on the Raetihi proposal in 2022, but the future of both pools is in the balance under the council's Future Services Review.

Councillor John Chapman claims that if the Ohakune project goes ahead, the Raetihi pool would close.

"If you have a [public] pool in Ohakune that's funded by a private trust ... and then 11km down the road you've got a pool that's crumbling and needs hundreds of thousands of dollars ... You can see where this is going, don't you?"

Manley said the council had never consulted on or decided to close a pool.

Manley says the district's pools are important and, while it is an option, the council does not intend to decommission them.

"They're really important. We want kids to learn how to swim."

Previous reports on the pools had not been adopted and the council's consultants were doing a "total review", he said.

If Ohakune Community Charitable Trust "took over" the Ohakune pool, the council could focus on the Raetihi pool, he said.

"Raetihi are quite right ... Of course it's important, and of course we don't want to lose it.

"But to be fair, it is many millions [of dollars] involved ... it was only a few years ago we were right at our maximum debt headroom.

"We've got to make sure we're looking after the whole district."

Raetihi pool's leaks were intermittent and "really difficult" to keep on top of, but were "constantly being fixed", Manley said.

Raetihi-based councillor Viv Hoeta said Ohakune and Raetihi communities have made it "very clear" that both pools were needed.

"People in Raetihi can't afford to drive to Ohakune, let alone the costs on our schools to transport all of our children there to swim, and vice versa for Ohakune."

This article includes reporting from the Whanganui Chronicle.

Letters

All important

• The world will run out of food to feed 8.5 billion inhabitants.

There is some truth in his warning. However, that mainly brings fear of the future to a younger generation.

Fortunately, we are able to see that this does not happen by applying the correct laws that would prevent this.

People prefer jobs rather than welfare, a sense of purpose rather than doing nothing and being paid for it.

Human instinct knows there is a plan for each new day, if something doesn't seem right, guess whose job it is to fix it.

We need more common sense rather than theories, let's be practical.

We need discussion where people can talk freely without trying to conform to bias protocol.

Ideas are just ideas until a group of people think the same.

At least you are active John, everybody is important.

Ben Mitchell

Bus survey shows potential high demand: RDC

Ruapehu District Council's Taumarunui/Hamilton bus survey has provided strong evidence of demand for an affordable, same-day public bus service and a clearer picture of what kind of service people want, claims RDC.

The survey drew 278 responses with 93% of responders saying said they would definitely or probably use a same-day return bus service. About one in four of those who answered how often they might travel expected to use it at least once a week.

Ruapehu's mayor Weston Kirton thanked everyone who took part.

"Thank you to everyone who filled in the survey and told us what losing this service has meant for them. People described how hard it can be to arrange a lift or afford to drive to Hamilton for an appointment, to shop or to visit whānau," he said.

The former Route 25 service combined a health shuttle with public transport. When Health New Zealand moved to a dedicated health shuttle in June, Taumarunui and communities along the route lost their affordable same-day public bus link to Hamilton.

"It was unfortunate that Council wasn't invited to take part in the discussions that led to the combined service being discontinued. I'm confident that if we'd had the chance to work through the issues together, we could have found a solution," Mayor Kirton said.

The survey found that while most people preferred a direct bus to Hamilton 68% of responders also said they would definitely or probably use a service that connected with a Hamilton bus at Te Awamutu.

"Whichever option is considered, people need a fare they can afford, a bus they can get on and off safely, and enough time in Hamilton to do what they came for. If passengers have to change buses at Te Awamutu, that connection has to be reliable," he said.

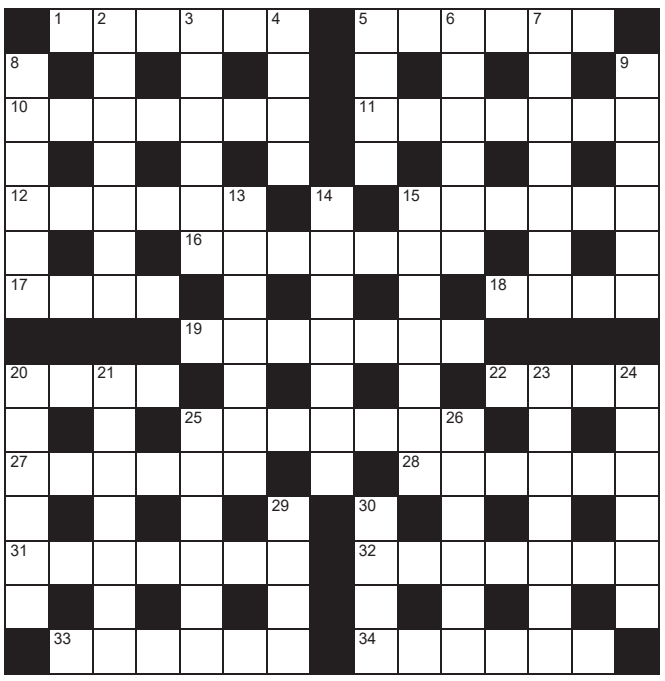
Turn to Page 5

THE WEEKLY WORKOUT

answers for each puzzle are included on this page

878

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

1. Diminish (6)
5. Flare (6)
10. Articulate (7)
11. Funeral procession (7)
12. Three times (6)
15. Angry outburst (6)
16. Natural environment (7)
17. Sharp-tasting (4)
18. Foreshadow (4)
19. Surreptitious action (7)
20. Gemstone (4)
22. Knocks lightly (4)
25. Tiresome (7)
27. Submerged (6)
28. Looking glass (6)
31. Edible mollusc (7)
32. Silhouette (7)
33. Repeated part of song (6)
34. Dash (6)

Down

2. Ruler (7)
3. Reek (6)
4. Prying (4)
5. Holiday house (4)
6. Skilled (6)
7. Cooking herb (7)
8. Scram! (4,2)
9. Idolise (6)
13. Made of clay (7)
14. Colossal (7)
15. Fit of temper (7)
20. Defy (6)
21. Under (7)
23. Charge in court (7)
24. Scan (6)
25. Bank clerk (6)
26. Sibling (6)
29. Imitates (4)
30. Tricks (4)

THE TOP 10

1 Chevy, 69, 2 Ovine, 3 Marie Curie, 4 Iran, 5 Eight, 6 Dunedin, 7 Ecuador, 8 Joseph Heller, 9 Cabbage tree, 10 The first atomic bomb.



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

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

2 EASY

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

The Top 10

1. What type of car is mentioned in the first verse of *How Bizarre*?
2. If cattle are bovine, what are sheep?
3. Which woman won the Nobel Prizes for Physics (1903) and Chemistry (1911)?
4. The All Whites drew 2-2 with which team at this year's World Cup?
5. How many lengths of the pool in an Olympic 400m freestyle?
6. Which New Zealand city has an airport at Momona?
7. In which country did the panama hat originate?
8. Who wrote the novel *Catch-22*?
9. Which New Zealand plant is the world's tallest lily?
10. The Manhattan Project developed what device?

CROSSWORD

Across: 1. Lessen, 5. Beacon, 10. Express, 11. Cortege, 12. Thrice, 15. Tirade, 16. Habitat, 17. Tart, 18. Bode, 19. Stealth, 20. Ruby, 22. Taps, 25. Tedious, 27. Sunken, 28. Mirror, 31. Scallop, 32. Outline, 33. Chorus, 34. Sprint.
Down: 2. Emperor, 3. Stench, 4. Nosy, 5. Bach, 6. Adroit, 7. Oregano, 8. Beat it, 9. Revere, 13. Earthen, 14. Titanic, 15. Tantrum, 20. Resist, 21. Beneath, 23. Arraign, 24. Survey, 25. Teller, 26. Sister, 29. Apes, 30. Cons.

SUDOKU

1

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

2

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

Back on the tools for Tim



Trail builder and maintenance contractor Tim Dodge – who has tried to retire – was back on the tools recently to tidy up the Ohakune Old Coach Road and get the long grass brought back under control. Tim has been a paid contractor on the cycle trails around Ohakune but he and his family business have also carried out thousands of hours of volunteer time on the tracks.

New Oturere Hut close to opening

Construction of the new Oturere Hut on the Northern Circuit in the Tongariro National Park is close to being finished, ahead of its opening on 18 December.

The new hut sleeps 28 – up slightly from the capacity of the previous 50-year-old 26-bed hut.

At the time of making the announcement on the plans for a new hut, Department of Conservation operations manager Libby O'Brien said the old hut not longer met the the standards DOC want to deliver for the Great Walk.

They worked with Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro to deliver a new building, which "better reflects the mana of the Dual World Heritage National Park".

Designers worked closely with Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro to incorporate cultural elements and hapū identity across the design.

Due to construction taking place at the existing hut site, Oturere Campsite and all facilities associated with Oturere Hut were closed for safety reasons last summer.

The solar panels visible in the photo are designed to assist with ventilation, (which was a big problem in the old hut), pumping water, lights for the living area and also allow for phone charging so people are prepared for emergencies.



The new, larger Oturere Hut on the Northern Circuit Great Walk track. Photo: DOC.

Bus survey shows potential high demand: RDC

From Page 4

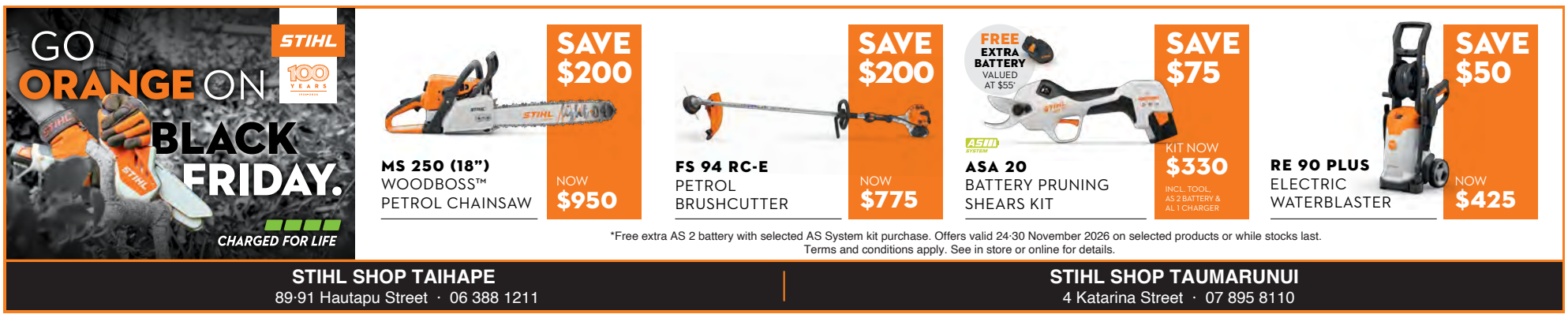
Just over half of those who answered the funding question supported a modest targeted rate in principle. A further 35% said their support would depend on the amount.

Council has provided the survey report to Horizons Regional Council so it can consider a possible replacement service as it develops its 2027–37 Long-Term Plan.

"I'm hopeful Horizons will be able to take this forward in its Long-Term Plan work. The next step is to see what each option would cost, how it could be funded and whether the timetable and fares would work for the people who need the service," Kirton said.

"We'll also continue talking with Waikato Regional Council about how they could support a new service with around two-thirds of the route being in their rohe."

People can find a copy of the survey results on Council's website at ruapehudc.govt.nz.



RAETIHI WATER : UPDATE & COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

What could a drier summer mean for Raetihi's water supply?

With El Niño Raetihi could see longer dry spells and a greater risk of drought this summer.
Join us at a community hui to learn about how the water supply may be affected by a prolonged dry spell and how you can help ensure the township gets through.

Wed 2nd Dec - 6pm - Raetihi Royal Theatre

Current issues with the Raetihi water supply : How El Niño conditions might affect water availability
Potential water restrictions and when they might be needed : Water restriction level triggers
Looking after the Mākōtuku River : How you can help conserve water

- Leave with an understanding of the Raetihi water situation - potential restrictions - and how we can prepare together
- For any queries on the hui call Libby on 06 385 8364

RUAPEHU DISTRICT COUNCIL

Waiouru Marae hosts elections learning tour

Waiouru and local iwi Ngāti Rangi welcomed a large group of democracy advocates from the United States of America earlier this month.

Rongomaraeroa o Nga Hau e Wha – the New Zealand Army National Marae – hosted Sujata Tejwani and over 50 advocates from More Equitable Democracy, who were taking part in an International Electoral Systems learning tour, coinciding with New Zealand's national elections.

Tejwani says the group believes that, in order to achieve racial equity in their representative democracy, communities of colour must have the organisational capacity to achieve high levels of civic engagement and they must lead efforts to transform their electoral systems.

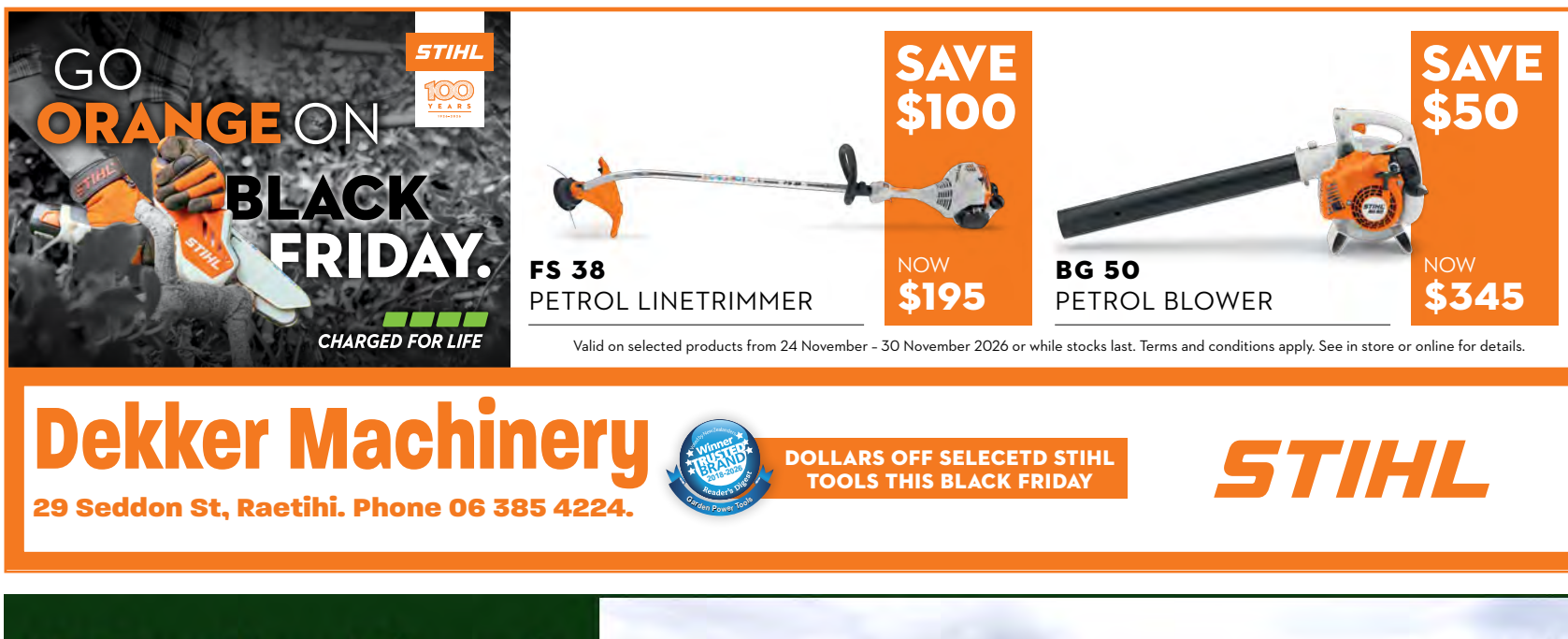


Delegates from the US group More Equitable Democracy, with Ngāti Rangi representatives at Rongomaraeroa o Nga Hau e Wha. Photo: Ngāti Rangi.

The real Amohia enjoys new playground



Amohia Pakinga – pictured – was one of the first children to enjoy the brand-new children's playground in Waiouru that was officially opened on Thursday 12 November. Last week's front page story had a photo of Ngawini Christensen-Ross but the caption carried Amohia's name. The Bulletin says sorry to the girls for the mistake. Both photos: Ngāti Rangi.



THERE'S ONLY ONE THING WORSE than being talked about, is not being talked about. If you're not in the Bulletin, are they talking about you? Call us today, 06-385-8532 – we'll get them talking about you



Lightbulb moments for Ruapehu residents

Ruapehu District is one of 10 councils across New Zealand that have joined forces with Genesis to help more Kiwi households reduce their power bills, as 'The Great Lightbulb Switch' prepares to begin distributing 100,000 free LED lightbulbs from November.

Building on the success of a community pilot in Te Kūiti, Genesis is taking the initiative to more regions across New Zealand, helping households access energy-efficient lighting while building support for its petition to phase out inefficient incandescent lightbulbs.

More than 10,000 free LED lightbulbs were distributed to households across Te Kūiti during the pilot, helping the community save an estimated $3 million in household power bills over the lifetime of the bulbs. For households that collected the maximum allocation of 15 bulbs, that's a saving of up to $25 per month on their electricity bills.

Genesis chief revenue officer Stephen England-Hall says the pilot has shown that making homes more energy efficient doesn't have to be expensive or complicated.

"The Te Kūiti pilot showed just how much difference a simple change like switching to LED lighting can make. Households can save up to $300 a year on their power bills by replacing 15 inefficient bulbs, while also helping reduce demand on New Zealand's electricity system."

England-Hall says partnerships with councils will be key to making the next phase accessible to communities.

"The response from councils has been incredibly encouraging. Te Kūiti showed us what can happen when a community gets behind a simple idea, and we're excited to work with more councils to help Kiwi households make meaningful savings on their power bills."

England-Hall said they are also encouraging New Zealanders to back thier petition to phase out inefficient incandescent lightbulbs.

Highlighting the potential impact of a nationwide switch, a 2023 report by Concept Consulting estimated that, if every remaining inefficient household lightbulb in New Zealand was replaced with an LED, households could collectively save up to $1.2 billion by 2030, while reducing peak electricity demand by 340MW and avoiding approximately 3.9 million tonnes of carbon emissions by 2040.

New Zealanders can learn more and sign the petition under petitions.parliament.nz

Local households can collect their free LED lightbulbs at the following RDC offices on Thursday 26 November: Ohakune, 37 Ayr Street, Ohakune; Taumarunui 59–62 Huia Street, Taumarunui; Raetihi, 24 Duncan Street.

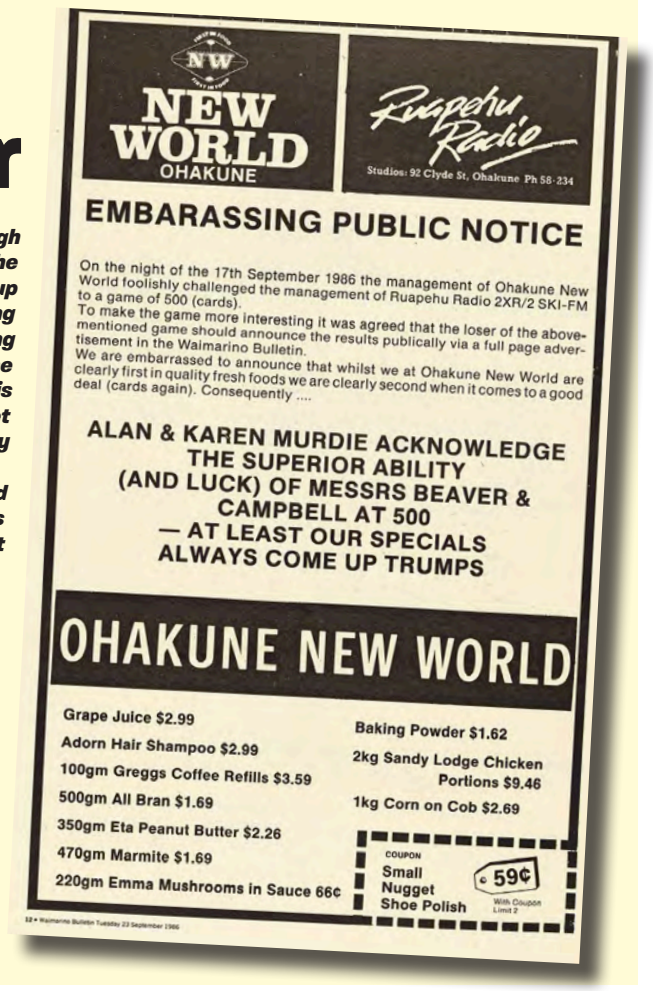
Ruapehu College leaders 2027



Ruapehu College has selected its student senior leaders for 2027. They are, from left, Jamie Senekal – Prefect, Sam Williams – Deputy Head Boy, Wren Drayton – Head Boy, Talei Phillips – Head Girl, Rebekah Pettman-Swift – Deputy Head Girl and Olivia Gray – Prefect. "Congratulations to you all," said principal Kris Vine. "We are so excited to see what you bring to these roles. We encourage you to lead with confidence, kindness and enthusiasm, support those around you and enjoy every moment of the journey." Photo: Ruapehu College.

Oh dear

Looking through old copies of the Bulletin throws up some interesting and often amusing snippets. One example is this old supermarket advert of a very different kind. You can read more old Bulletins at Papers Past online.



NEW WORLD OHAKUNE

Ruapehu Radio
Studios: 92 Clyde St, Ohakune Ph 58-234

EMBARASSING PUBLIC NOTICE

On the night of the 17th September 1986 the management of Ohakune New World foolishly challenged the management of Ruapehu Radio 2XR/2 SKI-FM to a game of 500 (cards).
To make the game more interesting it was agreed that the loser of the above-mentioned game should announce the results publically via a full page advertisement in the Waimarino Bulletin.
We are embarrassed to announce that whilst we at Ohakune New World are clearly first in quality fresh foods we are clearly second when it comes to a good deal (cards again). Consequently ....

ALAN & KAREN MURDIE ACKNOWLEDGE THE SUPERIOR ABILITY (AND LUCK) OF MESSRS BEAVER & CAMPBELL AT 500 — AT LEAST OUR SPECIALS ALWAYS COME UP TRUMPS

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Store- 9 Seddon St, Raetihi
Phone- 021-077-4907
Registrations close - 6th of December
Full details are on our Facebook page

Thank you Whanganui electorate
Thank you for all your support.
I look forward to continuing representing our community.
National
Carl Bates MP for Whanganui
Incl. Ruapehu, South Taranaki and Stratford
Authorised by C Bates, carl.bates@national.org.nz

For everything Ohakune, visit
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Ruapehu Bulletin

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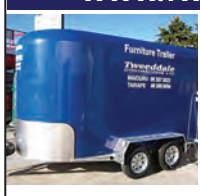
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From Girls with Hi-Vis to full-time apprentice

For Mary-Frances Maaka, a Connexis Girls with Hi-Vis® event did more than introduce her to the electricity industry. It opened the door to a career she didn't know was available to her.

Mary-Frances is now a trainee line mechanic with The Lines Company (TLC), and the company's second female trainee line mechanic.

She joined TLC in July 2026 and is now in the first year of her apprenticeship, training through Connexis and completing the practical, on-the-job component with TLC. She is learning the skills needed to work on the electricity network and building a career in her own community.

Before attending GWHV in 2025 while still a student at Te Kūiti High School, becoming a line mechanic wasn't on Mary-Frances' radar.

"I didn't know that becoming a line mechanic was an option for women," she says.

"The event opened my eyes to a career I hadn't considered before and showed me that TLC was open to training local people, including young women."

The opportunity to learn a completely new set of skills and start a practical career close to home appealed to her. Without GWHV, she says, she might never have known the opportunity existed.

Now, just five months into her apprenticeship, there is already plenty to learn.

Mary-Frances has been working on everything from pole-top rescue and climbing poles to testing at homes and meter boards. She has learnt how to prepare poles, install crossarms, replace fuses, carry out isolations and operate equipment used to isolate parts of the network.

There are also some decidedly physical aspects to the job, including learning how to carry and balance ladders weighing around 30kg and safely lower and reconnect lines.

Her working day typically starts at 7am, or 6.30am for planned shutdown work. After checking vehicles, equipment and the job details, the crew heads out to site, identifies hazards and agrees on the plan before getting to work.

No two days are exactly the same. Mary-Frances might help set up a ladder or truck, climb a pole, replace a pole or work alongside the crew changing crossarms.

She has also discovered that becoming a line mechanic isn't simply about being physically strong.

"I might not always have the same upper-body strength as some of the men, but I'm learning that it isn't only about brute strength," she says. "It's about using the right technique, including your legs and your whole body, to get the job done safely and achieve the same result."

That approach has helped her tackle some of the more challenging aspects of the job, including learning to work confidently in a climbing belt.

"It was something I hadn't imagined doing before I began my training. It felt unusual at first, but it was also exciting to realise what I was capable of."

The support of her crew has also made a difference. While initially she found it challenging to get comfortable talking with the men she worked alongside, she has gradually built relationships with people she might not otherwise have met.

For Mary-Frances, one of the most rewarding parts of the job is seeing the direct difference the work makes to people.

"Being able to help restore someone's electricity and tell them their power is back on gives you a real sense of achievement," she says. "You can see the difference the crew's work makes for people and their community."

She has already noticed changes in herself too, becoming physically stronger and more confident in an unfamiliar working environment.

Her advice to other young women is simple: don't rule out a career just because you haven't seen many women doing it.

"Firstly, it is possible. Women in this industry do exist and there is a place for us here. The hardest part can be simply showing up and giving yourself the chance to try."

Her own goal is to complete her apprenticeship, become a qualified line mechanic and eventually progress into team leadership, with the chance to teach and support others coming into the industry.

And if she can help more young women see themselves in the role, all the better.

"I didn't know this career was available to me until I attended Girls with Hi Vis, so opportunities like that really do make a difference."



Technique over brute strength – Mary-Frances Maaka shows how it's done with a 30kg ladder.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

Ohakune Raetihi Garden Club

Saturday 28 November - 1pm

We'll be looking at some local gardens ending with some Christmas cheer at the last house.

New members welcome.

Contact Di 021 165 7343.

Deadline for all advertising bookings and copy is 5pm Fridays!

It's important that we get your ad booking and copy in on time, so that we have time to check it, plan the best layout and work on producing a better paper for you!

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Ruapehu Mayor Weston Kirton

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Tongariro Taupō Conservation Board
Notice of Meeting

Date: Thursday, 3 December 2026

Venue: The Park Hotel Ruapehu, 2/6 Millar Street, Ruapehu, Waimarino 3948
Public Forum: 1.00pm - 1.30pm

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and engage with the Board during the public forum.

If you wish to attend the meeting or address the Board, either in person or online via MS Teams, please contact Louisa Meredith to receive an agenda and online link on:
Email: tongarirotaupoconservationboard2@doc.govt.nz
Phone: 027 256 1835

https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/statutory-and-advisory-bodies/conservation-boards/tongariro-taupo

NGĀTI RANGI

Nau mai e te iwi!
Ngāti Rangi Group Hui-ā-Iwi

Saturday 5 December 2026

The hui will be held between 12-2pm at the Whānau Day being held at Rochfort Park; Ruapehu Rugby and Sports Club, 1056 Raetihi Ohakune Road, Ohakune.

The agenda includes:
- Annual Report 2025/26
- Consolidated Financial Report 2025/26
- Te Ara ki te Moungaroa 2026-31
- Confirm newly appointed Trustees
- Approve Auditor FY2026/27
- Confirm Trustee Remuneration
- General Business

If you have not yet received the annual report via email, please contact **Helen@ngatirangi.com**

Hard copies will be available on the day.

RSVP your attendance or apology to: **office@ngatirangi.com**

PUBLIC NOTICES

DEFENCE MUNITIONS MANAGEMENT GROUP
Whakapurua i te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa

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 9am and 5pm on 30 November 2026.

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

RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATION

APP-2025205512.00 by Ricky Anthony Alabaster and Evelyn Bennett

Ricky Anthony Alabaster and Evelyn Bennett have applied for a retrospective resource consent for construction of a culvert and construction of a new culvert, diversion of the Koukoupo Stream, large scale land disturbance and the associated discharge of sediment at the property located at 8581 Turakina Valley Road, Rangiwaea, Taihape.

The application seeks resource consent for:

- **ATH-2025208637.00** - Land Use, Beds of Rivers and Lakes, retrospective construction of a culvert (Structure 1).
- **ATH-2026209736.00** - Land Use, Beds of Rivers and Lakes, construction of a culvert (Structure 2).
- **ATH-2026208838.00** - Land Use, Land, large-scale earthworks for the works that have already occurred, and are proposed to occur, within 5 metres of the bed of the Koukouppo Stream.
- **ATH-2026209742.00** - Water Permit, Divert, diversion of the Koukoupo Stream associated with the construction of Structure 2.

The Applicant seeks a 35-year consent term for the activity.

APP-2025205512.00 is notified pursuant to section 95A of the Resource Management Act 1991. All information relating to the application and the consents sought can be viewed here

https://preprod.horizons.govt.nz/consents-and-compliance/publicly-notified-consents/app-202520551200-ricky-anthony-alabaster-and-evelyn-bennett

Submissions close on **Wednesday 13 January 2027 at 4.45pm.**

M J McCartney
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

horizons.govt.nz
horizons REGIONAL COUNCIL

PUBLIC NOTICES

Pipiriki Incorporation

PROPRIETORS OF PIPIRIKI TOWNSHIP NO.1 AND OTHER BLOCKS INCORPORATED

NOTICE OF HUI

The Annual General Hui for 2026 will be held at Paraweka Marae, Pipiriki on **Saturday 5 December 2026 at 10am**

Transport to the hui in Pipiriki will be provided by a bus which will leave from Ohakune at the Osteria Restaurant on Clyde St at 9am, and a further pickup in Raetihi at the Medical Centre on Seddon St.

For more information, documents and any updates, go to the website www.pipiriki.co.nz

To provide numbers please contact Robert Spicer on 06 3451166.

Shareholder registration opens at 9am on the day.

All Correspondence to:
The Secretary, Pipiriki Incorporation
PO Box 4386, Whanganui 4541
Telephone 06 3451166
Email robert@beltonsmith.co.nz
Website www.pipiriki.co.nz

PUBLIC NOTICES

HĀNUI – NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AWARUA) 3D3 12B TRUST

Te Ture Whenua Māori / Māori Land Act 1993 – The Principal Act (Parts 1, 6, 9, 12, 13 & 17)
Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting (Meeting of Owners) for the (Awarua) 3D3 12B Trust (whenua located at Te Riu o Puanga / Mangarautawhiri) will be held at SH1, Winiata Marae, Taihape on Wednesday, 9 December 2026, commencing at 11:00 AM (cup of tea from 10:30 AM).
Tikanga & Kawa o te Marae: This hui is held under the tikanga and kawa of Winiata Marae (Tautahi, mokopuna of Whitikaupeka). All proceedings, kōrero, and voting are conducted kanohi ki te kanohi in accordance with marae kawa and the Trust Order. Beneficial owners must be present in person to speak and vote.

AGENDA:
1. Karakia & Mihimihi
2. Apologies
3. Chairman's Report
4. Financial & Trustees' Report
5. Governance & Structure (Parts 9, 12 & 13 – Owners Incorporated)
6. Dispute Resolutions
7. Election of New Trustees
8. General Business

Snacks provided following the hui.
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WAIMARINO BULLETIN

VOICE OF THE RUAPEHU REGION
Tuesday 25 November 1986. Volume 4 No. 26

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Amalgamation issue settled

After many long arduous months of debate, deliberation and lengthy discussion, the three local bodies — the Ohakune and Raetihi Boroughs and the Waimarino County Council, were unable to reach a mutual agreement on the issue of amalgamation.

The wrangle has ensnared the front page of the *Bulletin* for some time until recently when the matter passed from the hands of the local authorities to the local Government Commission.

Chairman of the Commission, Brian Elwood, attended a special meeting of the three councils last week and announced the Commission's decision of a 5:3:3 representation, with Waimarino County holding five seats and equal representation for Raetihi and Ohakune.

Mr Elwood said Government has offered assistance in meeting the costs of an election consequent upon council restructuring.

The election of the Mayor and councillors will take place in March 1988 with a view to the new council operating from the start of the 1988 financial year, on 1 April.

The Commission's proposal provides for no change to the structure of the council until the triennial election of members in 1992. At that stage there may be circumstances justifying a review of membership. Increased growth and development of one of the wards may be a reason for increasing membership for that ward.

Mr Elwood commented he was sorry that a decision was unable to be made by the three councils.

"We are aware that the decision is not going to please everyone but it is a carefully balanced, carefully made decision," he said.

"It is an important milestone although we had held out the hope to endorse a proposal worked through by all three councils."

Mr Elwood supported the Commission's decision for a 5:3:3 representation by saying:

"Any other arrangements could be seen as creating an element of unfairness which would jeopardise the successful operation of the new district council."

"There needs to be a sense of fairness between the urban and rural parts of the district and between the two urban parts of the district. The Commission is of the view that balancing all the factors and with the aim of creating a united district, the fairest representational arrangement would be five from the rural ward and three each from the two urban wards," he said.

"One thing is certain, if your councils continued to endeavour to exist as separate units of local Government, the cost of so doing would rise dramatically to a level which would likely be unacceptable to ratepayers," he said.

"By combining the resources of the three councils, it should be possible at reasonable cost to provide local Government services to meet the needs of the district."

Mr Elwood said the Commission is of the view that the district should be able to elect a leader able to speak for the district as a whole. The commission's proposal makes provision for the Waimarino to be led by a Mayor elected at large and a re-election of councillors from the three existing authorities to operate under the previously agreed name of 'Waimarino District Council.'

YOUNG WAIOURU RUNNERS



The triumphant Colts team from the Waiouru Primary School Joggers Club from left rear: Gene Tua (11), Susie Flavell (11), Nathan Soper (11), Karla Coaney (12), Craig Brayton (13). Left front: Nigel Hope (teacher/trainer), Aaron Lough (11), Lee Howe (11), Brendon Maioha (11) and Shane Scobie (12).

For individual performances see back page.

Native bush to be felled

National Park residents have certainly had their share of worries over the last year with the closure of the Waikune Prison complex, the subsequent down-turn in population, and now the proposed milling of forest around a newly appointed walk-way.

News of the proposed felling of native virgin forest came earlier this year, but work is yet to commence.

The Tepapakurua walkway was opened to the public in November of last year and the first group to walk the track was a group of children from National Park Primary School.

The track branches off Fischer Track Road and it takes some two hours to tramp in to the Tepapakurua Waterfall, on the way enjoying the sights and sounds of the native bush.

County custodian of National Park, Kevin Murcott, is concerned by the felling of the bush around the entrance of the track — about 900 acres are set to get the chop.

"The birdlife in the bush is fantastic," he said.

"We have blue ducks, kiwis, falcons, yellow-crown parrots and all the usual native birds. We would be sorry to lose them."

Mr Murcott commented that a lot of people have walked the track since it was opened nearly 12 months ago, including a lot of the tourists who visit the district over winter, and even more in the summer months.

The block of land is privately owned.

"We don't know when the milling will start," said Mr Murcott.

"It's inevitable and, because the land is privately owned, there isn't much anyone can do about it."

The owners of the 900 acres of land, Mr and Mrs Sivyer of Owhango, were surprised by the reaction of some individuals to the proposed milling.

"The first we heard about it was when the Catchment Board rang us up," she said.

" Mr Murcott has not contacted us about this business. He did contact a local newspaper though, and gave them an article."

Mrs Sivyer told the Bulletin that they had bought the land from McIlwaine Timber Company of Marton who retain the milling rights to the land. She said McIlwaines have a time limit for milling the area.

"There are certain clauses in the contract that must be adhered to including only milling timber that is of regulation length," she said.

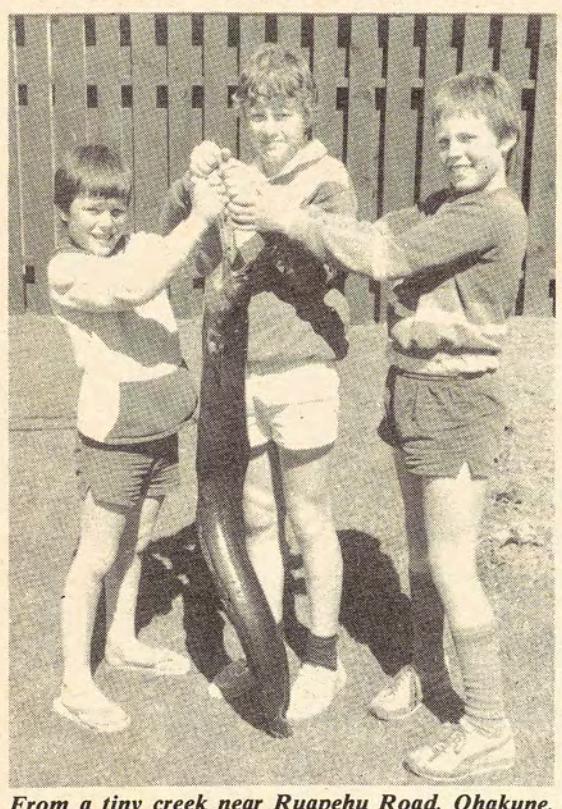
"My husband and I enjoy nature and the beauty of the native bush around the waterfall. We have no intention of destroying that beauty."

Mrs Sivyer maintains that the new track is not suitable for people with less than good health. She commented that the track moves up a steep hill which she was not able to climb.

The Sivyers said they are not trying to remove the opportunity for locals and visitors to experience the unique setting of the native bush. In the long run they have plans to open hunting blocks and walking tracks for tourists.

Mrs Sivyer is emphatic that "The milling has nothing to do with the County or anyone else. The land is privately owned and Mr Murcott has absolutely no legal standing whatsoever."

Eelers extraordinaire

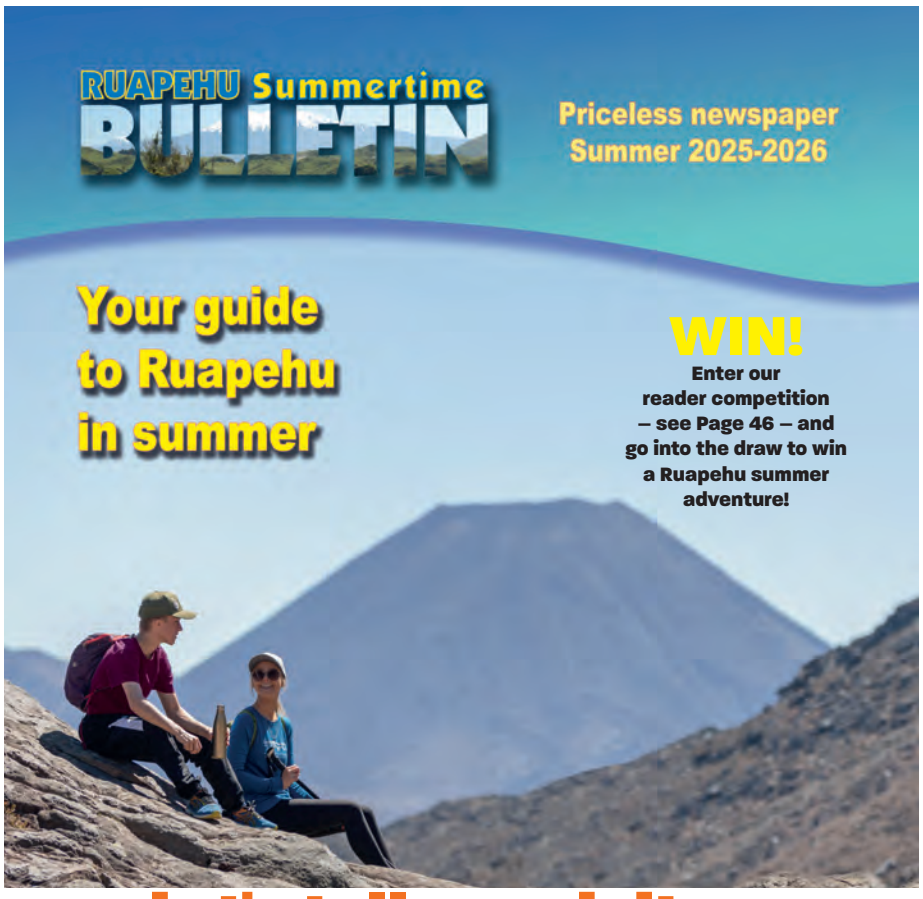


From a tiny creek near Ruapehu Road, Ohakune, came this 14lb monster eel. Vaughn Becker and Scott and Bevan Giltrap hauled the eel out late one evening last week.



FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS PARTY
The SUNBEAM will be open for Christmas functions as from 19 Nov. Wednesday to Sunday weekly, or any other night by arrangement.
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SUNBEAM LODGE
Foyle Street, Ohakune 58-470

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



Let's tell our visitors what to do .... in Ruapehu!

Out for the summer School Holidays
Book your space - deadline 30 November
Call Jude 0274993697
or email: ads@ruapehubulletin.co.nz

Fire experience for Waiouru youth



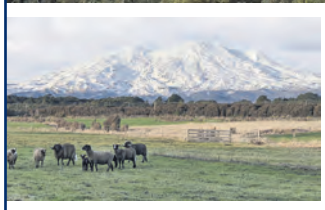
Members of the 360 Rangatahi Programme in Waiouru got to do a bit of training with the Waiouru Fire Brigade members in October. The group said "a big thanks" to Spud Murphy (pictured) and the team who gave the Rangatahi their time and knowledge. Photo supplied.

Property Brokers

Horopito 30 Hutiwai Road

Deadline Sale









48.5ha or 42.77ha or 5.53ha in Horopito

Set against the spectacular backdrop of Mount Ruapehu, these two adjoining Horopito properties offer an exceptional opportunity to secure privacy, adventure and natural beauty. Combining 42 hectares of recreational paradise at 6 Galvin Road with the beautifully established 5.5 hectare lifestyle retreat at 30 Hutiwai Road, the properties offer a three bedroom, three-bathroom living arrangement, quality shedding, native bush, waterways and hunting opportunities. Enjoy private, park-like grounds, native bird song and uninterrupted views of Mount Ruapehu without covenants on your title.

Deadline Sale closes Friday 4th December, 2026 at 11.00am, (unless sold prior)
View By appointment
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Katie Walker
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Ohakune 154B Mangawhero Terrace

Open Home









Spacious and versatile escape

3 2 1

Hidden away on a private rear section just a short stroll from Ohakune Junction, this inviting mountain retreat provides the sweetest blend of relaxation and adventure.
The open-plan living space flows around a modern kitchen and takes in rural views stretching to Mt. Ruapehu. From here slide through ranch doors to the covered deck. This sheltered space spills over to a unique outdoor gathering area complete with a handcrafted, stone fireplace, creating the perfect, cozy setting to unwind under the stars after your day on the mountain.
Offering two spacious bedrooms upstairs plus a private room on the lower level with separate access.

Deadline Sale closes Tuesday 8th December, 2026 at 3.00pm, (unless sold prior)
View Sat 28 Nov 11.00 - 11.30am
Web pb.co.nz/OHU238356



Alexis Gault
M 022 054 3510

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