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Ruapehu Bulletin

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Marae upgrade project nears end

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporter

A \$16 million marae renovation programme is drawing to a close, with a third of marae in the west of the North Island including the Waimarino, the top of the South Island and the Chatham Islands benefiting from major upgrades.

Funded by the Provincial Growth Fund, the mass renovation project was a regional job creation scheme that enabled 64 marae in the Tai Hauāuru region to carry out capital works.

Te Puni Kōkiri regional director for Te Tai Hauāuru, Jessica Smith, said the project allowed marae communities to complete shovel-ready work, including essential repairs, maintenance and infrastructure.

Smith said the two-year initiative generated local jobs and cadetships. This was a lower number than forecast because smaller jobs were clustered as a strategy to create employment over a longer period.

The scheme also created new Māori enterprises and reconnected whānau back to their marae.

“It was a great opportunity for employment, bolstering businesses that already exist, enabling whānau to have new businesses, and supporting cadetships and work experience.



“But it wasn’t just about creating jobs – actually it created far more than that. Coming back to work on your marae as a contractor, businesses created as a consequence of this mahi, finding out information about your whānau, moving towns to be closer to reconnect with your marae ... so many amazing stories that have come out of this particular programme.

“It was that culture, connection, being able to build businesses, all those sorts of things.”

Among those to benefit were 24 marae of the Whanganui River, Rangitikei, Taumarunui, the Waimarino and South Taranaki, which had \$7.7 million of work approved under the scheme.

“Some have already finished and we’re hoping to have the majority completed by the end of February subject to contractors’ availability, delays in materials and those kinds of things.”

Smith said not all marae were able to

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Mangamingi Marae, on the Raetihi-Ohakune Road, is lifted up to be repiled last week – part of the PGF project. Photo: Liz Brooker, Toi Communications.

RDC representation appeals heard

Appeals and objections to the Ruapehu District Council’s representation proposals was being heard via Zoom yesterday.

Three appellants – Fiona Kahukura Chase, Peter Zimmer and Tim Leahy – had asked to be heard in support of their submissions.

Three members of the Local Gov-

ernment Commission were to hear the appeals.

After the appellants had addressed the commission, the Ruapehu District Council would have the right of reply.

The hearing can be accessed at <http://www.lgc.govt.nz/representation-reviews/>

Ring of Fire, Tussock cancelled

The Ring of Fire and the Tussock Traverse trail events have been cancelled again, organisers announced yesterday.

“Here we go again ... Covid-19 has become the kryptonite of the events industry,” Victory Events announced on social media yesterday.

The Ring of Fire event was cancelled in 2020, just a few days out from the start.

On Saturday 30 January 2021 the ROF 50km was run within the annual Tussock Traverse event, with the intent to bring ROF back in March 2022.

“Things were looking good for a time, so we forged

forward with planning for the event,” says Victory.

“Once again entries were high, showing us that you really wanted (and needed) the event to go ahead just as much as we did and we were getting excited.”

The Goat went ahead on 21 January, but days later the Government announced that due to a potential new strain outbreak, the entire country would be moved to a modified Red setting, effective immediately.

“We were relieved for the Goat, but worried for ROF.

“Since this announcement, event management has been working hard considering all of the logistics, risks, and

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Marae upgrade project nears end

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participate in the PGF programme but a major data insights project was underway to help inform a wider marae development rollout.

“One of our focus areas is to create good data, insights and information across all of our marae so we can be more strategic and proactive in supporting marae aspirations.

“Sixty percent of our marae don’t have a development plan, many don’t have insurance because they can’t afford it, water infrastructure is poor. Electrical infrastructure is poor in Taumarunui so how do we support them to look at alternative energy sources? In Covid times we need emergency management plans, we need defibrillator programmes.

“Knowing that across all of our marae enables us to be really strategic about how we support.”

The information would be used to seek targeted support from central and local government, and create policy and investment settings to support marae.

“Our role is to support marae to fulfil their aspirations and to increase capability and capacity in any way we can. The data insights project has already gathered information from 60 percent of our marae and we’re in the process of going back around again to engage with everyone.”

Smith said the scale of the project meant Te Puni Kōkiri had to increase the size of its teams in Te Tai Hauāuru.

“It’s quite a big piece of work. For instance, in this rohe alone we have 23 marae in and around Taumarunui, 15 in Rangitīkei, 27 in Whanganui and up the river, and 11 in Ruapehu – a total of 76 in all.”

Local Democracy Reporting is Public Interest Journalism funded through NZ On Air.

ABOVE RIGHT: Mākaranui Marae between Ohakune and Raetihi is one of 64 marae renovations in the Tai Hauāuru rohe. Photo/Moana Ellis.

BELOW RIGHT: Whānau inspect an early start to work at Mākaranui Marae on a Ngāti Tamakana hapū, Uenuku iwi papakāinga between Ohakune and Raetihi. Photo/Moana Ellis.



Eating out in the Ruapehu District

CYPRUS TREE

79 Clyde St, Ohakune Ph: 06 385 8857
Check out our new summer menu. Kiwi craft beers, boutique wines and cocktails to quench that summer thirst. Playroom for the kids, fozzball, air hockey and spaces to keep the kids entertained. Spectacular mountain views. A great place for casual get togethers or special occasions. Contactless takeaways available. Open 7 days, 5pm till late.

KINGS BAR & RESTAURANT

3 Rimu St Ohakune Junction Ph: 06 385 8648
Est in 1913, historic Kings offers an inviting menu by locally renown chefs, a great selection of boutique wines and is the exclusive venue to offer Ruapehu Brewing Company beers on tap. See our Facebook page for what’s on. Open 7 days from 4pm. Contactless takeaways available.

POWDERKEG

Bottom of the mountain road Ph: 06 385 8888
The iconic Powderkeg gives you that warm alpine feel with large open fires, hot mulled wine and a great craft beer selection. With over 30 years’ commitment to service and good quality free range food. Follow us on instagram @powderkegbar for our weekly deals, parties and giveaways. Great breakfast and delicious brunch cocktails. Open 7am – 10.30am and reopening 4pm daily 7 days a week. See you at The Keg.

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What’s on round Ruapehu

Funday Horse Sports

26 February

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



Please email: ads@rupahebulletin.co.nz or call 06 385

8532 or if you have something to add to this column.

Raetihi Gutbuster canned

The Raetihi Gutbuster cycle, walk or run has been cancelled for 2022.

The 2022 event was to be a “new look” gutbuster, with a new off-road courses for runners, mountain bikers and e-bikers over stunning farmland.

Organisers are still positive about the event, for 2023, saying that Anthony Oswald, Mark Leishman and Tina Moore had ridden the new course, which gives “Gutbuster” a whole new meaning – the hills are steep and relentless and will test the stamina of competitors.

The new courses will include a 50km and 21k run and mountain biking – including ebikes – off-road trail, 4-5k walk/run along the Makotuku Track and a one-kilometre kid’s dash, along with the road bike races from Raetihi to Pipiriki return (55km) and Pipiriki to Raetihi (27km).

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Vaccinators egged as protesters force caution in children's jab rollout



A Te Ranga Tupua iwi collective mobile team and residents in Raetihi. Photo/Supplied Te Ranga Tupua.

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporter

Māori health providers are holding back on Covid-19 vaccinations for children in the face of growing anti-vaxer protest in the wider Whanganui region.

That is despite the area recording the second-lowest rate in the country of vaccinations for children aged 5 to 11 years.

Iwi collective Te Ranga Tupua says one of its mobile vaccination clinics was egged in Aramoho, Whanganui last week and anti-vaxer activity has been ramping up since children became eligible for vaccination.

According to the Ministry of Health, as of last week only 1600 (24 percent) of 6600 eligible children in the Whanganui District Health Board area have had their first shot.

The rate for tamariki Māori is even worse, with only 400 (15 percent) of Māori aged between 5 and 11 years getting their first jab. The Whanganui District Health Board area includes parts of Rangitikei and the Waimarino/Ruapehu district.

Te Ranga Tupua rapid response vaccination co-lead Elijah Pue says anti-vaxers are now targeting the iwi collective's mobile teams daily with the message "hands off our tamariki".

"The anti-vax community have ramped up the rhetoric. It is a health and safety issue for our staff and our frontline teams."

He said the iwi collective does not want to bring in security, preferring instead to



encourage kōrero.

Te Ranga Tupua is midway through a 15-week effort to lift Māori vaccination rates in Whanganui, Rangitikei, South Taranaki and the Waimarino.

Pue said the iwi collective was taking the time to engage with parents who have questions or are hesitant before it launches a region-wide child vaccination rollout on 14 February. About 120 parents participated in an online information session with Covid-19 experts last week. Pue said Te Ranga Tupua would continue to take

'There's an impression that Omicron causes milder disease and that's true but the scale of cases is so large that even a small percentage of severe illnesses is quite a serious situation.'

a cautious approach and has more information sessions for parents planned next week.

The Whanganui DHB vaccination uptake for both Māori and non-Māori children is the second lowest in the country, with only Northland recording lower numbers.

Spokesperson Louise Allsopp said the DHB is encouraging whānau to talk with their trusted healthcare providers to work through any concerns about vaccinating their 5-11 year olds.

"We are also ensuring existing providers are supported to start vaccinating children when they are ready," Allsopp said.

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Iwi collective vaccination teams are engaging with parents who have questions or are hesitant before Te Ranga Tupua launches a region-wide child vaccination rollout on February 14, says vaccination co-lead Elijah Pue. Photo/Moana Ellis.

Ongarue Rail Tragedy remembered: call for memorial

Planning is well underway to commemorate Aotearoa New Zealand's first major rail tragedy, which occurred on Friday 6 July 1923, just south of the Ongarue village, says committee chairman Weston Kirton.

The Horizons Regional Councillor is aiming to reach out to families, railway staff and volunteers who helped the injured.

The crash was a fatal end to a passenger train service between Auckland and Wellington, carrying over 200 passengers during terrible weather conditions, which occurred when the locomotive hit a landslide and derailed, killing 17 and injuring 27.

"We have researched names of the 17 killed whose names will be recorded on a suitable plaque at a nearby pull-off area for the public to read and learn more of the tragedy," says Kirton.

The committee has sought funding for the monument from a Rail Heritage Trust, but says there is a lot more needed to develop an area that hopefully becomes a memorial for the present and future generations to visit.

"It is important we engage with the local community particularly the local Ongarue Primary School. The children from the school are intending to invite the Prime Minister to the commemoration in 2023.



Marcus Tatton, at left, and Weston Kirton. Artist Marcus Tatton is in negotiations with the committee to produce the memorial.

RE MINDER

POWER OUTAGE FOR TAIHAPE, WAIOURU AND SURROUNDING AREAS

SUNDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2022, 9:00am – 4:00pm

Why is the power going off?

Transpower, the owner and operator of the National Grid, and Powerco who connect homes and businesses in this region are undertaking essential maintenance work at the Mataroa substation and its connecting lines. Unfortunately, this maintenance cannot be undertaken while the substation is in service.

Transpower and Powerco would like to advise residents and businesses in and around **Taihape, Waiouru and surrounding areas** that a power outage is required on:

Sunday 20 February 2022, from 9:00am – 4:00pm.

Note, this date could be affected by severe adverse weather. Our alternative outage date is Sunday 27 February.

The areas likely to be affected by the power outage are shown on the adjacent map. We recognise that there is never an ideal time for consumers to be without electricity and we apologise for any inconvenience this power outage may cause. Transpower and Powerco have worked to find a time that is least inconvenient.

For further information, please contact communications@transpower.co.nz or phone 04 590 7000. For information on whether your property is affected, please call your retailer with your customer number.

Electricity outage area

The areas affected by the power outage shown on the map are illustrative only.

Please be advised our alternative outage date is Sunday 27 February.

PREPARING FOR THE POWER OUTAGE

1. If you are reliant on electricity for medical support equipment, please contact your medical provider for advice.
2. Turn off all electronic appliances at the wall (microwaves, TVs, DVDs, computers etc).
3. Lift and store enough drinking water from personal water wells before the power goes off.
4. If you are on shift work, fill up your petrol tank the night before – remember pumps and eftpos won't work.
5. While the power is off, treat all power lines and electrical wiring as being live at all times as it could be restored earlier than planned.

TPFH0222

'Game on', says McKelvie

Local MP Ian McKelvie reflects on the recent National Party meeting in Queenstown:

• Last week Team National hit the ground running at a caucus retreat in Queenstown. I must say, I haven't been to Queenstown many times, but it was barely recognisable – empty streets, cafes and shops.

The vibrancy and eclectic mix of people just wasn't there. New Zealand Rugby's decision to relocate the six New Zealand based Super Rugby Pacific teams (including players, coaches, officials and support staff) to Queenstown for the next four weeks to ensure the competition can go ahead as scheduled is great news. I'm sure it will give the town a huge and very welcome lift.

Back to the Caucus conference – a great way to start to the political year, and it was enthusiastically attended by all of National's MPs and their partners. National Party leader Chris Luxon said from the start – "It's game on!"

We focused on things that matter to New Zealand and New Zealanders and the issues that will be important this year – like the economy, Covid, Māori, housing, health, poverty and the environment.

It was great to talk about National's role as being about more than just 'opposing'.

Under the new leadership of the National party we will focus on outcomes – to allow every New Zealander to reach their



MP Ian McKelvie.

Kiwi dream. And we will broaden our focus beyond economic issues because the economy, society and our environment are all inextricably interlinked.

We'll also continue to hold this Labour Government to account. We have to! Government spending is out of control, in fact it's up around 68% in the last five years. And all that money has to be paid back. The people getting hurt the most are the poor and vulnerable and elderly, because rising inflation hits those on fixed and low incomes hardest.

I came away from two days in the deep south with a renewed sense of purpose. At the heart of it, National cares deeply about people. It's why we're here. And – "It's game on!"

Caution in children's jab rollout

From Page 3

"The key things are that people have the right information to make their decision for their whānau, then [that] vaccinations are available from the right people at the right time. There has been a focus from Māori providers on getting accurate information out there before they start vaccinating."

The public health team was providing support to local school principals around Covid protection measures, including wearing masks at school. The DHB was also supporting additional providers to start delivering Covid vaccinations for both adults and children, Allsopp said.

Covid-19 Māori health analyst Rāwiri Taonui said tamariki Māori vaccination numbers throughout the country were concerning and must be lifted urgently before the Omicron variant takes hold.

"There's an impression that Omicron causes milder disease and that's true but the scale of cases is so large that even a small percentage of severe illnesses is quite a serious situation."

Taonui said Ministry data shows 18 percent of tamariki Māori (5-11s) nationwide have had their first vaccination compared to 33 percent for all ethnicities. But the gap was much wider due to an undercount of more than 12,000 in the index the Ministry uses to count vaccinations and the estimated number of tamariki Māori, he said.

"That gap is closer to 25 or 26%. A more accurate calculation of the tamariki vaccination is 16.1 percent for Māori compared to 40.9 percent for non-Māori/Pacific."

Taonui is calling on the government to cut the wait time between first and second child vaccinations from

eight weeks to three, and to prioritise the tamariki Māori vaccination rollout to avoid repeating the inequities of the national vaccination programme to date.

"This includes targeting low-decile schools with large Māori enrolments," Taonui said.

"At the moment Māori cases are very low. But at some point there's going to be a vector by which Omicron begins to make its way into our community and that is likely to come when our children go back to school and begin mixing with kids from other communities and take the virus home."

He said the Ministry of Health must release tamariki Māori data to the Whānau Ora Commissioning Agency and other Māori health providers to help them quickly locate children who have yet to be vaccinated.

Delays in child vaccinations now would carry through to second vaccinations. With the current eight-week wait time between vaccinations, a child vaccinated today would not be fully protected until April – well after Omicron has taken hold in the country.

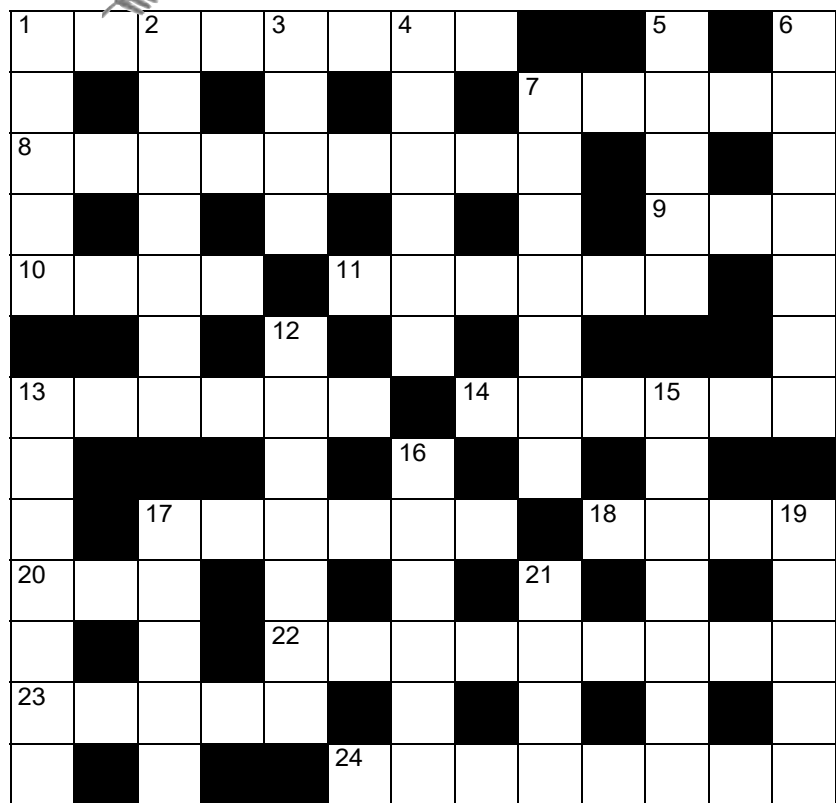
"That's a real concern. We could get caught out really quite badly," Taonui said.

"We are starting to see numbers overseas, for instance in the United States and amongst other indigenous groups, where there's a lot of children getting ill and child hospitalisations are increasing.

"We're already in a situation where by mid-January tamariki Māori were 53 percent of all under 12 infection and 63 percent of all hospitalisation. If we don't get the tamariki vaccination rollout right, those numbers could become even worse."

THE CROSSWORD

1867



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Across

1. Housing facility for the elderly (4,4)
7. The number of national State Highways (5)
8. Range which is crossed by Evans, Dyers and Gebbies passes (4,5)
9. Bulk storage container for milk (3)
10. At hand (4)
11. Downpour (6)
13. Auckland electorate held by National since 1960 (6)
14. Invercargill, opened in 1910, is NZ's oldest of this type of institution (6)
17. Karearea is the native species of this bird (6)
18. Fish considered a pest (4)
20. A marsupial (abbr) (3)
22. Exemplary example (4,5)
23. Indonesian cloth made by wax-resistant dyeing (5)
24. NZ's longest serving mayor (8)

Previous solution

Across: 7. Winston Peters, 8. Whareniui, 9. Puku, 10. Dollop, 12. Scrawl, 14. Umu, 15. Global, 17. Nestlé, 19. Rapt, 21. Reproach, 23. Morning Report.

Down: 1. Night owl, 2. Astral, 3. Hoon, 4. April Sun, 5. Stupor, 6. Trek, 11. Pull rank, 13. Wild card, 16. Botany, 18. Sloppy, 20. Atom, 22. Pure.

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Down

1. Mature (5)
2. Mocking irony (7)
3. NZ's heaviest beetle (4)
4. Much derided hairstyle, as worn by All Black Jack Goodhue (6)
5. Rosette shaped succulent with thick rigid leaves and tall flower spikes (5)
6. Site for radio or trains (7)
7. Where freshwater mixes with the sea (7)
12. Play around (7)
13. As a result of that (7)
15. Disliked person (2-3-2)
16. Money (colloq) (6)
17. Wai Footrot's favourite game (5)
19. Species of whale known for stranding themselves on beaches (5)
21. In the thick of (4)

Just a flying visit



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- Manunui
- Matiere
- Ōhura
- Otunui
- Ōwhango
- Raurimu
- Retaruke
- Taumarunui
- Tokirima

WHEN WE'RE FLYING:

February
2022

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New Ātihau chair and deputy announced

Ātihau-Whanganui Incorporation has confirmed Dr Te Tiwha Puketapu as the new chair of the incorporation, at their recent January board meeting.

Dr Puketapu has been a committee of management member for 10 years and during this time he has fulfilled the role of chair for our charitable arm, Te Āti Hau Trust and recently the chair of the Audit and Risk Committee. Dr Puketapu was recently reappointed to the committee of management at the 2021 AGM.

In making the announcement, the Board acknowledged outgoing chair Mavis Mullins who has served as chair of the incorporation since 2012. Mullins announced at the 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM) that 2021 would be her last year as chair.

The committee of management have appointed Che Wilson as the deputy chair. He will also replace Dr Puketapu as the chair of Audit and Risk Committee. Mr Wilson has been a committee of management member for 14 years.

“Both Dr Puketapu and Mr Wilson bring a wealth of governance experience, institutional

knowledge, and commitment to these roles. Both Te Tiwha and Che are known also for their respective involvement and contributions to whānau, hapū and iwi development,” stated the Incorporation in a press release.

“I wish to acknowledge Mavis Mullins for her leadership during her time as the chair. Her passion and drive encouraged board members, management, and staff across the incorporation to work hard to achieve the aspirations of our shareholders and people. Her business expertise and strategic leadership has created many opportunities for the incorporation, where she has set the strategic direction for the incorporation”, says Dr Puketapu.

Mr Wilson also acknowledges Mullins’ commitment to the people and her big-heart leadership qualities.

“Mavis has provided many opportunities and supported many young and up and coming Māori leaders, including the Māori Women Agriculture space. Mavis will always go out of her way to support young Māori to achieve their goals and aspirations and has been one of the main contribu-

tors to the Awhiwhenua Apprentice programme on Te Pā Station”, says Mr Wilson.

Both Dr Puketapu and Mr Wilson, alongside and together with all board members, are committed to leading the incorporation with their combined skills and experience, says AWI.

“It is important for both Che and I to continue with the strategic goals and aspirations we have in place for our whenua and people. We believe in the strength of collective leadership and with the commitment of all board members we will continue to look after the land for the land to look after us”, says Dr Puketapu.

“Connectivity back to home and to our people is a priority for the board. We should always be accountable to our people, and we need to ensure we take them on a journey, give reassurance we are good kaitiaki of the whenua and continue to provide opportunities for our people to engage with the whenua,” says Mr Wilson.

Both Dr Puketapu and Mr Wilson have already started preparing the governance plan for 2022 and look forward to sharing these with shareholders

and staff in the coming months.

The Ātihau-Whanganui Incorporation is a collective of more than 9000 shareholders, farming 21,000 effective hectares of ancestral land from Ohakune to Whanganui, including eight sheep and beef stations and a dairy farm. It produces lamb, beef, milk and wool from 75,000 ewes, 4000 beef cows and 700 dairy cows. Ātihau-Whanganui also has more than 3000 beehives.



Dr Te Tiwha Puketapu.

Ring of Fire, Tussock Traverse cancelled



The challenging round-Ruapehu trail run has been cancelled again. Photo: Ring of Fire/

From Page 1

options for continuing with the event this year.

“However, the Ring of Fire is a beast of an event that simply cannot be operated under the Red setting. We contemplated ‘waiting and seeing’, but we don’t want to play that game with so much on the line.

“So the most responsible thing we can do is to announce ... that we are cancelling the 2022 Ring of Fire incorporating the Tussock Traverse.

Contestants who have an entry for 2022 can transfer it to the 2023 event, or receive a 50% refund if they wish to cancel, up until 11 March 2022.

“We know you will be

disappointed, and we are sorry that it has come to this. But we hope that you will take us up on the offer of

a full transfer, because ROF will be back, and it will be delivered as intended.”

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Whakapapa cleans up

There was a great turn-out for the annual Whakapapa clean-up on 28 January – the last activity in the Mahi Aroha summer programme run by the conservation group Project Tongariro. More than 20 people turned out for the effort, scouring the slopes of the Whakapapa Ski Area for rubbish that didn't quite make it to the bin. The volunteers were rewarded with a free ride on the Sky Waka Gondola after their efforts. Photo: Peter Woodhead, Ruapehu Alpine Lifts safety and environment co-ordinator.

Honey, meat, climate change and resilience: indigenous trade and global problems on the table in Dubai

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporter.
 Honey, meat, climate change and resilience were all on the table when a Māori farming collective of more than 9000 shareholders went to Expo 2020 Dubai to build new relationships with indigenous leaders around the world.
 Ātīhau-Whanganui Incorporation's outgoing chair Mavis Mullins says the expo's iwi-led Te Aratini Festival of Indigenous and Tribal Ideas

was an opportunity to explore solutions to trade and other global issues.
 Te Aratini – a world first for indigenous people at a global trade expo – turned out to be a groundbreaking forum for sharing knowledge, forging



networks and exploring potential markets for the incorporation's honey and red meat products, she said.
 "There was a lot of opportunity to pull together, whether it was about issues of revitalisation of culture, of reo, or whether it was around economies of scale or the economics of a tribal entity," Mullins said.
 "I certainly had great opportunity for Ātīhau-

Whanganui Incorporation, particularly in exploring the options for honey and red meat.
 "The thing that platforms all of that is the cultural understanding and respect that was there with Māori and the Emirati. We are having further ongoing discussions."
 Mullins was a speaker in a number of panel discussions at the three-day international forum.

Turn to Page 11



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Ruapehu Maori Catholic Club AGM

Sunday 6th March 2021
10am Tikaraina Ringapoto

Agenda:

Karakia
Present
Apologies
Correspondence
Financial
General
Election of Officers

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SITUATIONS VACANT

Raetihi Cosmopolitan Club Club Manager / Secretary



Permanent, full-time

About the role:

- The Raetihi Cosmopolitan Club are seeking a dynamic, versatile and community minded manager to work with the committee to further develop our community minded Club.
- Previous experience as a club manager is desirable though a current managers certificate, knowledge of management of the TAB and gaming are a prerequisite.

We are looking for candidates with the following attributes:

- Proven business acumen with solid financial experience
- Have excellent computer skills in the Microsoft Office suite and Xero
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- High degree of accuracy and attention to detail
- Payroll experience
- High level communication and interpersonal skills
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- Manager's Certificate and previous experience in the alcohol industry an advantage but not necessary
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Bar Staff / Duty Managers

Permanent, part-time

About the role:

- The Raetihi Cosmopolitan Club are seeking applications for suitably qualified bar staff and those with duty managers license to be part of our rural community minded Club.
- Please note a current managers certificate, knowledge of management of the TAB and gaming are a prerequisite.
- Applicants must also be fully vaccinated.

Applications for both positions will remain open until filled. Please forward your cv, cover letter and references to:
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Obituary: Robin 'Frosty' Foubister

Robin 'Frosty' Foubister was farewelled at a service at Murawai on 28 January after he had passed away at home on 18 January at the age of 88, surrounded by loved ones.

He was well-known in Ohakune and Mt Ruapehu as mountain manager in the early 1980s.

Robin was born in the port of Lyttelton on 6 November 1933 to Verona and Norman, the eldest of three boys.

Given that Robin was born beside the sea and grew up in Lyttelton, it's no surprise that his life has been filled with sea related endeavours, as well as his mountain experiences.

The family moved to Christchurch where Robin's father was a dispensing chemist. One of Robin's first paying jobs at age 12 was delivering prescriptions around the city on his bike. He attended Linwood North Primary school then went on to Christchurch Boys High School where his years were filled with rugby, softball, dances and surf lifesaving.

Sports

Robin was an all-round athlete with successes in representative softball for the Canterbury Colts, and coming close to playing representative rugby. At age 60 he was New Zealand age group champion for every distance in triathlon, sprint course, Olympic half and full ironman.

Robin met his first wife when working in London in 1956. For his slow, three-month return trip to New Zealand Robin managed to get a job as engineer on a dredge built in the UK for the New Plymouth Harbour Board, whilst his bride to be took a regular ship. They married in Christchurch in 1959 and bought a house in Spreydon where, wedged between skiing and surf lifesaving and renovating the house, their three eldest boys Andrew, Richard and Michael were born. James, the youngest, was born in England whilst Margaret was visiting family.

Around 1970 the family moved to Wellington and Normandale in the Hutt Valley where renovations started again at least this time Robin had a built-in work force to help. In 1974 yet another move came with the relocation to Mangere, Auckland where yet again renovations were carried out.

The family purchased some land at Whiritoa, Coromandel. Robin was con-

cerned at the lack of any lifeguard service and, along with others, pioneered the beginning of the Whiritoa Surf Club. Surf Club activity at Whiritoa was central to family life with many legendary happy New Year parties enjoyed.

Robin had for a number of years seen the job of "officer in charge" at Campbell Island, advertised by the Department of Civil Aviation. The job was for 12 months and Margaret took the family back to the UK to bond with her family. Prior to departure Robin underwent training with the Dominion Museum, the Meteorological office and Christchurch Public Hospital where he spent six months in the emergency department.

Robin set sail for the sub-Antarctic Island aboard a US Navy ship, to spend a year of adventure with nine other men plus sea lions, sea elephants, sea leopards and albatrosses plus many other species of bird life. Campbell Island was at the time manned for collecting scientific data. As officer in charge he was responsible for the Met station and the physical and moral well-being of the other men. He was able to wake up every morning and enjoy his passion for wild-life, tramping, building things and photography.

Antarctica

This experience led to his next major adventure, inspired by Robert Falcon Scott the illustrious Antarctic explorer. He was appointed as leader at Scott Base for 12 months. The outstanding leadership and enterprise that Robin had shown on his Campbell Island posting doubtless was a key springboard for this next adventure.

Robin's time on the ice was easily one of the major highlights of his very full life, he knew how privileged this role was and it is clear he filled it with distinction, completing a very full year of activity, which included the construction of the remotely located Vanda Station.

Several Antarctica veterans nominated Robin for a Polar Medal, but this was not possible due to the time lapse. But some of their comments included: "Robin was an outstanding leader of men in climatically hostile and geographically remote conditions, he met emergencies with complete calm and courage, no other expedition has held together as a group as well as this one."



Robin 'Frosty' Foubister, as he will be remembered by many in Ohakune, at Turoa in the 1980's.

New Zealand's Antarctic reputation was greatly enhanced by Robin's leadership of Scott Base in 1968 /69.

In 1980's he visited the Orkney Islands for research into family history – he was even photographed alongside the "Foubister" road sign.

Turoa mountain man

In 1981 Robin became mountain manager at the Turoa Ski Field, allowing him to embrace his love for skiing, outdoor life, and good man management. The role lasted for eight challenging demanding and fun-filled years. Once

again Robin was able to call upon his enterprise, innovation and leadership skills and ability to collaborate with others to achieve a multitude of much-needed improvements and changes to the Turoa ski field, including building the Movenpick chairlift. Many older skiers will well remember the years that "Frosty" managed the skifield.

He is survived by his life partner Sue, children Pipi, Benedict, Thaddeus, Andrew, Richard, Michael, James, daughters in law Louise and Alison as well as grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Indigenous trade and global problems on the table in Dubai

From Page 7

Indigenous thinking, and in particular the views of Whanganui River tribes, have been prominent on the global stage in Dubai, with New Zealand's pavilion built around the country's recognition of the legal rights of Te Awa Tupua (the Whanganui River and its tributaries). Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui chair Sheena Maru was also a presenter at the Te Aratini festival in November.

Ātīhau-Whanganui Incorporation is one of the country's largest farmers, with 70,000 sheep, 4000 beef cows, 700 dairy cows and 3000 beehives on 42,000 hectares of farmland from Ohakune to Whanganui.

Mullins said the mānuka honey market in the Middle East is all but flooded and a tangible point of difference for Ātīhau-Whanganui product would be needed to capture any gap.

"We're exploring that. We had some interesting discussions about that. Ātīhau-Whanganui are now endorsed as organic for a fair bit of our product. It's about the story and verifying the story. We've done a lot of work in that space already.

"Do we have a product that can differentiate? Possibly. There's no hurry from my perspective – we've taken a first step, we're building a relationship, let's make

sure we understand what they want, when they want it, how they want it, and then look at whether that's something we can deliver on."

Mullins said the provision of red meat processed according to halal requirements for Muslim markets is a big potential opportunity for Ātīhau-Whanganui but the timing was not yet right.

"There are challenges at the moment: the global logistical infrastructure is broken, getting containers in and out is difficult," Mullins said.

"The timing might not be great, but you don't want to let any opportunity go without having a look and understanding what that bigger ecosystem looks like. Some of these cultural elements are totally untapped.

"But it's not just trade and transactional opportunities, it's about global solutions. It's not just about going up there and cutting a deal, it is about cultural understanding, respecting the people, getting to know them.

"Whether it's about climate change or resilience or whānau, there's a lot of mātauranga (knowledge) that hasn't been given the light of day."

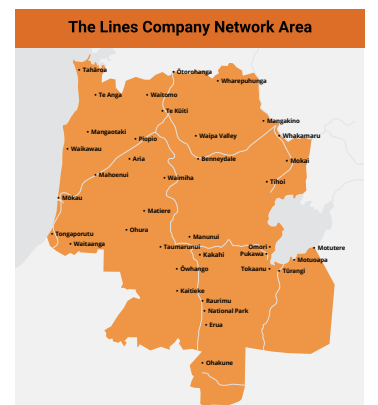
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Letters

Raetihi pools

• I refer to your article Raetihi Pool delays (*Ruapehu Bulletin*, 2 February): complaint goes to Ombudsman in which Pauline Welch, Council's executive manager community and economic development states: "It is disappointing that Mr Chapman has decided to lay a complaint with the Ombudsman which misrepresents the process we are undertaking. Any suggestion that Council is favouring Ohakune over Raetihi are incompletely incorrect. We are supporting both Ohakune and Raetihi equally to deliver on their aspirations for their pools."

It is an astonishing assertion given that the Ombudsman has yet to publish a decision, a decision that will be evidenced based and not based on Council press release.

It is an appalling overreach on the part of Ms Welch to assert publicly that as an elected member I would attempt to mislead the Ombudsman in this way.

My complaint is based on well founded and documented concerns, not only because of the quite clear preferential treatment given to Ohakune but the very serious question of Council accountability to elected members.

When asked for information on the issue Ms Welch responded by insisting I first pay Council \$600 for Council to provide the information. There is actually no extra cost to Council in officers providing members with information on the work they undertake.

It is often the case that when councils are caught out by an Ombudsman's complaint there is often a flurry of activity to demonstrate to the Ombudsman action is actually being taken and ensure the complaint against the Council isn't successful.

Let's hope this more recent flurry of activity is indeed genuine and leads to real action being taken to work with both the Raetihi and Ohakune communities to enable their respective pools to be both repaired and upgraded in a timely manner.

John Chapman

Ruapehu District Council replies:

• Council stands by our stance that we are supporting both Ohakune and Raetihi equally in delivery of their pool aspirations.

We await the outcome from the Ombudsman's deliberations on the matter and are confident that they will find in favour of process we are following.

Clive Manley, chief executive, RDC

Wakatipu High win outdoors team race

South Island school Wakatipu High are the winners of the 16th Torpedo7 get2go national final outdoors teams race based out of Hillary Outdoors Tongariro Centre in January.

They were one of 11 teams that participated in the "full-on week" of outdoor adventures, which was originally due to take place in December. The Auckland lockdown saw a change of date and move to Tongariro from Great Barrier Island.

The changes presented a totally different environment and a unique set of challenges for the 88 students to overcome.

Five tough days of intense competition pushed their personal limits and tested their abilities to work together as a high performing team under pressure, in a variety of outdoor challenges including kayaking, rope work, trail running and orienteering/roving.

The students proved that they had prepared well over the summer and there were some close scores on the leader board at the end of the week.

However, it was the team from Queenstown's Wakatipu High that rose above the rest to take the title ahead of Christchurch's

Cashmere High and New Plymouth Girls and Boys High.

Each team in the Get2Go Challenge is made up of eight students from Year 9 and 10, with four female and four male members. Schools first need to qualify for a place in the final by winning their local one-day regional Get2Go in Term 3 where they undertake challenges such as orienteering, mountain biking, kayaking, standup paddling, indoor rock climbing and problem solving. Each year around 1600 students from across New Zealand participate in their local challenge.



College students faced various outdoors challenges for the get2go challenge. Photos: runnerfilms.co.nz.

Grant Funding applications Open now until 25 February 2022



Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund



Pride of Place Fund



Community Hall Repairs & Maintenance Fund



Creative Communities Fund

Council currently has grant funding applications open for a number of community funds that support youth sport team travel, community projects, participation in arts or culture and the repairs and maintenance of community halls.

If you are involved with any of these activities we invite you to apply.

More info can be found on Council's website www.ruapehudc.govt.nz or by calling Candice on 07 895 8188.

Applications for this funding round close on 25 February 2022.

