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August date for housing project P3



New two at school P3



Jess tops tour table P5



Books to go to homes P7

Changes at council table guaranteed

By Mark Ebrey

As the Local Government Commission mulls over the shape of this year's local body elections in Ruapehu, it looks like turning into one of the most intriguing elections in a long time.

Mayor Don Cameron told the representation hearings on Tuesday last week that he would not be standing again this year, opening up the mayoral race.

Other long-serving councillors have also said they will retire at the next election.

Taumarunui councillor Adie Doyle has already expressed his intention to stand for mayor.

Cameron also said one of the reasons why the council reverted to eight councillors instead of the originally-proposed six was because councillors were concerned about the loss of institutional knowledge due to the retirement of a number of long-term councillors.

Compensate

He said they felt this needed to be compensated by a greater number of heads around the table, at a time when Council was facing demands to deal with a wide range of issues including climate change and environmental concerns.

However, the future shape of Council will not be known until April when the Local Government Commission has to make its decision.

It heard from three submitters on Tuesday 8 February – Fiona Kahukura Chase, who said Māori weren't given the chance

to push the case for four Māori Ward councillors; Peter Zimmer, who opposed the changes from the original proposal for a slimmed down council of six general and two Māori councillors.

He and fellow submitter Tim Leahy also objected to the creation of two general wards, split at the top of the Piriaka Hill.

In their view, placing Owahango and National Park in the southern ward would be contrary to the current communities of interest, with Owahango especially having strong links to Taumarunui.

Boundaries

The hearing was told by Council that no changes had been made to the Owahango boundary that had been in place for the last three elections, but currently National Park had its own ward, which was to disappear under the proposed reorganisation.

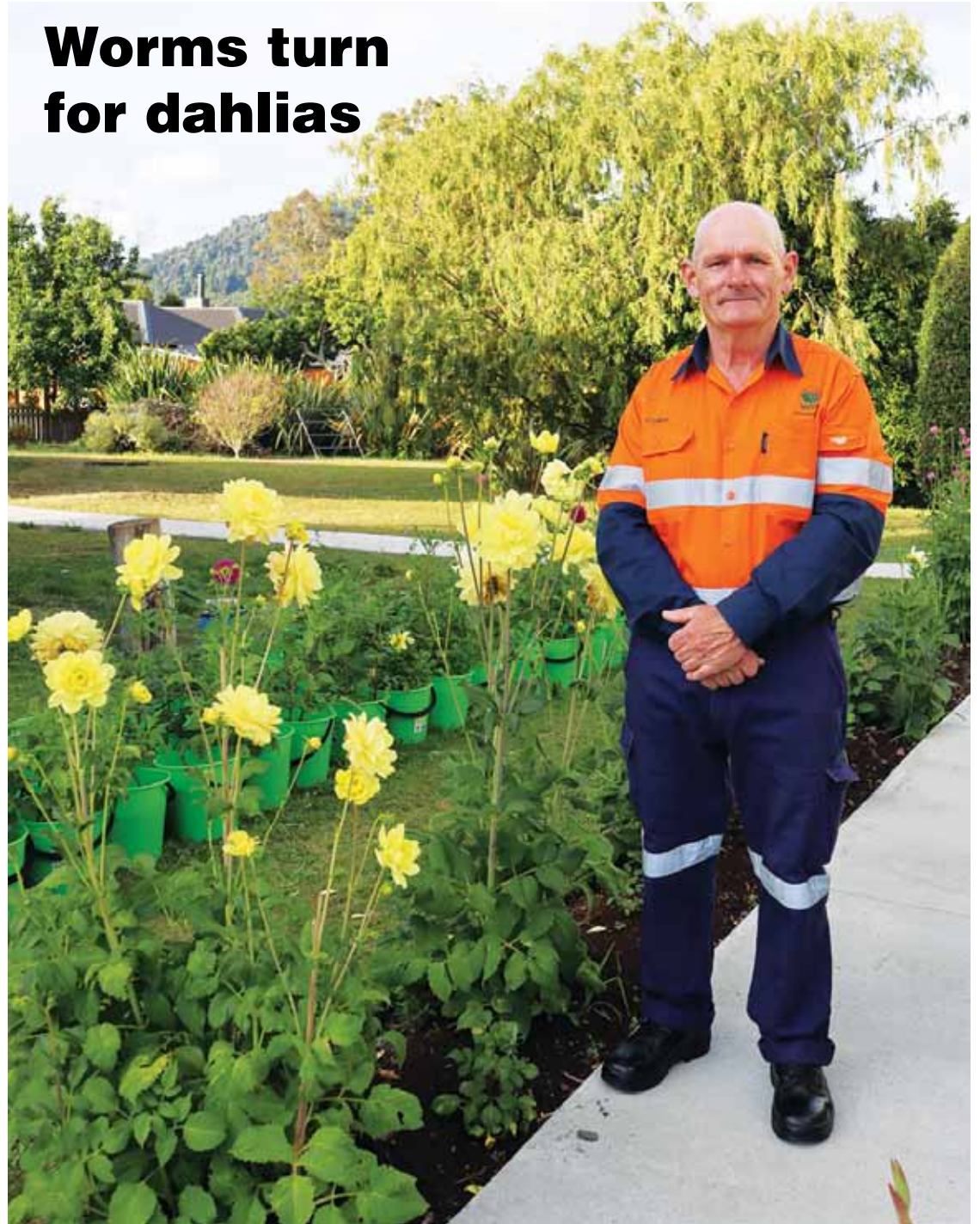
Zimmer also questioned the need for North/South wards saying the elections should be at large across the district as they were proposed to be for the mayoral and Māori Ward councillors.

Hearing chair Brendan Duffy questioned RDC why they thought having four Māori Ward councillors could not work, to which RDC chief executive Clive Manley said it would increase the size of council and the community has made it very clear that they were opposed to this.

Manley also told the hearing that under the original proposal, there could only be two Māori seats, and it was for this reason

Turn to Page 2

Worms turn for dahlias



Patrick O'Sullivan with his dahlias that he has been growing at St Joseph's Church in Ohakune, using vermicast from the new WPI worm farm. See inside for details. Photo supplied.

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Ruapehu council changes guaranteed at 2022 election

From Page 1

that the possibility of more was not discussed.

When the decision had been made to increase the number of general seats to eight, the number of Māori seats was increased to three.

Intentions

Sitting councillors were asked their intentions, with responses so far from deputy mayor Karen Ngatai (standing down), National Park councillor Murray Wilson (standing down), Taumarunui councillor Adie Doyle (standing for mayor only), Waimarino councillor Janelle Hinch (waiting to hear the result of the LGC hearings) and Waimarino councillor Elijah Pue standing again.

At present, Ruapehu District has two councillors that identify as Māori; both from the Waimarino – Vivienne Hoeta and Elijah Pue.

With the possibility that Ruapehu could end up with eight general councillors and four Māori Ward councillors, there could be an equal split in those identifying as Māori around the council table, should the existing councillors opt to stay as general ward councillors.

In this case, if Māori were to put up a strong mayoral candidate they could end up with the balance of power, with the mayor holding a casting vote.



Peter Zimmer speaks to the Local Government Commission, via Zoom, on why he objects to the proposed changes to the Ruapehu District election system.

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, foosball, 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 renowned 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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47 Clyde St, Ohakune Ph: 06 385 9120

Open 7 days from 7:30am – 4pm for all day breakfast and lunch. A cosy memorable atmosphere with a great range of yummy food and beverages, including regional famous Volcano coffee, Allganics juices, iced blended Mocha and chocolate, 7 kinds of smoothies. There is a function room too for meetings and special occasions. Speedy free WiFi! A perfect place for everybody!

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

TCCB

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

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

DHB area hits 90% vaxxed

The Whanganui District Health Board area, which includes the southern Ruapehu, has achieved 90% for second Covid-19 vaccinations.

"The Whanganui DHB is really pleased and excited to have hit the 90% milestone, and would like to extend a huge thank you to the Whanganui community for getting in and getting their vaccinations done and a huge thank you to all the staff involved from the DHB, Te Ranga Tupua, primary care and pharmacies, they have all worked extremely hard to get us here," said Louise Allsopp, Covid vaccination executive lead.

However, the Waimarino rates are still low,

with only 78% of eligible people in Raetihi having received two doses. Ohakune's percentage is just over 90% and Waiouru is at 92%.

With omicron working its way through the country, she says it is more important than ever for people to protect themselves and their whanau and the Covid-19 vaccination is the best protection.

"The more people vaccinated the greater the protection for our rohe and our people who are immune compromised. The next step for our Whanganui rohe is if you are due for your booster get in and get it done – it will add the protection you need with omicron edging its way in, and will assist in preventing you

becoming extremely unwell with Covid-19.

"Vaccinations are our best protection against Covid-19."

Testing clinic information is updated daily and available online at www.healthpoint.co.nz/community-health-services/community-health/whanganui-covid-19-community-testing-centres/

You can also call the COVID-19 Healthline on 0800 358 5453 anytime.

"We remind people that once you have been tested to please go home and self-isolate until you have received your results. Please do not stop off at the supermarket or go visiting until you are sure that you are Covid-19 negative."

Protect yourself, your whānau and community

Vaccination Clinic



Where

Winstone Pulp International Ltd

When

24 February 2022

Families are welcome
Anyone 5 year or older
10:00am - 3:00pm

Or book your vaccination for a day and time that suits you



Book My Vaccine

0800 28 29 26
BookMyVaccine.nz

Unite against COVID-19

WHANGANUI DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD
Whanganui Whanganui Whanganui

Ohakune units on target for August finish

Construction of Ruapehu District Council's six new social housing units in Moore St Ohakune is proceeding well with the project on target for completion in August.

The \$2.1m project has been funded through the Government's Covid-19 response infrastructure fund in partnership with Ruapehu District Council.

Ruapehu mayor Don Cameron said that the construction of the units is making a direct positive contribution to the local economy and once complete will help to address a shortage of social housing in Ohakune.

"The current Labour government has made housing a national priority and Council believes we can play a constructive role in addressing the wide ranging housing issues affecting all sectors of our community," he said.

"Not only do we need more social housing but we also need suitable and affordable housing for single people, key workers, families of all sizes and older people."

In late 2020 Council consulted on and adopted a Five-Year Housing Strategy and Plan Action, which also involves sup-

porting local iwi Uenuku, Ngāti Haua and Ngāti Rangī to deliver their own Māori housing initiatives on Māori owned land.

"We are aiming for the successful completion of the Moore St project to demonstrate our capacity to deliver even larger housing projects in the future and unlock further investment from government and the private sector toward implementation of our Housing Strategy."

Mr Cameron noted that in announcing the Moore St project Housing Minister Hon Dr Megan Woods had said that the project provided an opportunity for RDC.

"(RDC can) use its land holdings to partner with Government to build a more prosperous and resilient district, which is a great example of how we can all work together to resolve this housing crisis," said Woods.

"As the first concrete implementation of the Housing Strategy and Plan Action, we are hopeful that the Moore St development will build on this start and be the catalyst for Council working with Government and others to develop housing at scale in Ruapehu," said Mr Cameron.



Construction of Council's six new Government COVID19 response infrastructure funded social housing units in Moore St Ohakune is proceeding well with the project on target for completion in August. It is hoped the successful delivery of this project will unlock further investment toward implementation of Council's 5-year Housing Strategy and Plan Action for addressing Ruapehu's housing issues. Photo supplied.

Worms turn for dahlias

Dahlias at St Joseph's Church in Ohakune are benefitting from a dressing of vermicast from a trial worm farming operation at the Karioi Pulp Mill.

The donation aims to "showcase the positive impact of our corporate social responsibility with MyNoke's help and Patrick's generous work as a volunteer," says Rodney Gutsell, Winstone Pulp International (WPI) technical sales manager.

WPI and MyNoke have established an equitable business partnership for worm farming (vermiculture) based at the Karioi Pulp Mill.

MyNoke is the world's largest worm farming company, with multiple sites across New Zealand.

Each day, approximately 80 tonnes of WPI waste material (biological sludge) is converted into soil conditioning resource (vermicast) and distributed throughout the Ruapehu region and further afield for soil improvement.

In addition to previous WPI financial contributions for the restoration of St Joseph's Catholic Church in Ohakune, Patrick O'Sullivan, WPI lab technician,

volunteers at St Joseph's, assisting with maintenance and upkeep of the grounds.

Together WPI and MyNoke have donated 200kg of vermicast to St Joseph's. The vermicast has been used for the propagation of flowers, plants and herbs. The plants will be available from St Valentine's Day with donations accepted to St Joseph's fundraising account.

Rodney Gutsell said that Patrick, an avid gardener, approached him, amazed at the increased growth and health of the plants grown using the vermicast in comparison to plants grown without it.

Patrick and other members of the WPI Technical team have visited MyNoke sites in order to better understand aspects of vermiculture and the use of vermiculture products.

"The propagation at St Joseph's is an excellent result, illustrating on a local level, the ability to convert our biological waste into a sustainable and environmentally beneficial product."

Patrick can be contacted on 021-070-5055 for information on how to donate to the Church.

Group welcomes council initiative on Raetihi pool

One of Raetihi's two main community groups has welcomed the latest initiative by Council to sort out the long-standing issue of repairing and refurbishing the town's swimming pool.

"Council's renewed commitment to work with the communities of both Raetihi and Ohakune on ensuring the future of their respective pools is a welcome move," says Geoff Anderson, chair of Raetihi Promotions.

"As a community group that has over many years supported our communities aspirations for their pool, we now

intend to step back from further formal involvement and give council the space needed to both repair the significant leak in the pool and refurbish the pool's heating system, making it a fit for purpose facility for our town.

"Projects of this magnitude involving Council assets require project management skills only council, with the oversight of community boards, can provide."

He added that once the results of the feasibility study are known and upgrade costs known funding options led by council can be discussed.

New two at school



Kristi Nation, left, and Laura Baker, new to the Ohakune Primary staff.

Ohakune School welcomes two new staff members for 2022 – Laura Baker and Kristi Nation

Laura is an experienced teacher and has recently moved to the area from Whanganui to join her partner. In her spare time she attends Young Farmer events around the region, as well as helping out on the farm when the school work day ends. Laura and her black lab have been

enjoying walking on the trails and bush walks around the district. She is teaching a Year 3 class.

Kristi has joined the support staff team and moved to Ohakune from Canada 15 years ago to be with her husband Scott. After an extended time working in hospitality, she had returned to education. Her two daughters are enrolled at Ohakune Primary School.

TRANSPower

POWER OUTAGE FOR AFFECTING RAETIHI AND SURROUNDING AREAS

SUNDAY 6 MARCH 2022, 9:00am – 4:00pm

Why is the power going off?

As owner and operator of the National Grid, Transpower needs to undertake essential maintenance at the Ohakune Substation to ensure a reliable supply of electricity to **Raetihi and the surrounding areas**. Powerco and The Lines Company are also taking the opportunity to undertake work in their networks during this time.

We have worked to find a time that will cause as little disruption as possible to the local community.

Power supply will be turned off to the area on:

Sunday 6 March 2022, from 9:00am – 4:00pm.

Note, this date could be affected by severe adverse weather. Our alternative outage date is Sunday 13 March.

Transpower recognises that there is never an ideal time for consumers to be without electricity and apologises for any inconvenience this power outage may cause.

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 13 March.

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.

TPRB1623222

Local campaign launched to support whānau

The 10 week 'Are you all goods?' campaign, launched recently, aims to provide support, information and practical tips for whānau in the Whanganui, Ruapehu, Rangitīkei, South Taranaki region.

The campaign is being run across dedicated social media platforms and supported by the www.oneyouallgoods.com website that hosts information and resources. Each week it features a new kaupapa (topic), fronted by local faces and voices, providing real kōrero to engage and support.

"These uncertain times are stressful and we know they are impacting on our whānau in a number of different ways, irrespective of vaccination status we need to support our people as we continue to navigate these new spaces," said campaign spokesperson Tipene Aue.

"We want to encourage our people to check in on and manaaki (look after) one another and most of all to ensure that we lead with aroha (love) for one another, no matter what."

The first week of the campaign, fronted by Matariki Cribb-Fox, focussed on assisting whānau to develop a plan for their household and extended whānau, ensuring everyone knows what to do and who will do what when Covid-19 is transmitted within the community. Whānau are able to download a localised template from the website to help them navigate some of the tricky conversations required to help them to prepare.

The campaign isn't just fronted by locals but planned by them also.

"We asked a number of key people to come together with us to help us figure out what our people really wanted and needed, and the clear message was that we need to look after one another. We were hearing stories of division and hurt and what was missing was what fundamentally defines us as human beings, love and care. The catch phrase "Are you all goods?" came from everyone sitting down and sharing kai together and instantly we all jumped on it. And because that's what it's all about people were really willing to get in behind it," said Matariki Cribb-Fox.

(The *Bulletin* asked about the phrase and was told that "all goods" (with an 's') is a colloquialism used a lot in the local communities).

Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Atihaunui-a-Pāpārangī taurā (students) Nikora Herewini and Mia McDonnell provided safety advice with their unique touch of humour in the week leading in to Waitangi weekend, with registered nurse William (Gumz) Pati sharing his thoughts and experiences as a front line Covid-19 kaimahi (worker) and some of the tensions he has had to navigate. His message of manaaki "just share the love! And that's it. There's nothing else we could do apart from share the aroha, share the alofa, be kind" has been timely as this week's kaupapa.

Now into the third week, the campaign is set to be more visible outside of the online space, with billboards, radio and other media promotion planned.



Nikora and Mia, two of the faces helping to promote the support campaign.

Letters

Curly at the movies

• Regard the article "Last of the King's comes down" (*Ruapehu Bulletin*, 2 February 2022), many people have the name of 'Mr Curly' mixed up.

He was our usher at the King's of the late 1940s and 1950s.

He was an old bushman, Curly Johnson (not Thompson as quoted in the article) from Burns Street. His son Percy and grandson John and his wife Janice (nee Clancy) also worked as ushers over the following few decades.

As many may remember, Friday nights was kids' night at the cinema and a large crowd would attend. Films starring Elvis, John Wayne and Bruce Lee was Curly's job to work through and it was quite a challenge with the kids.

Bruce and Leslie Thompson, previous owners of the King's Theatre

See you 'Twosday' next week

The day before Wednesday next week has been dubbed "Twosday" by some numerologists who are excited by the lining up of a lot of twos.

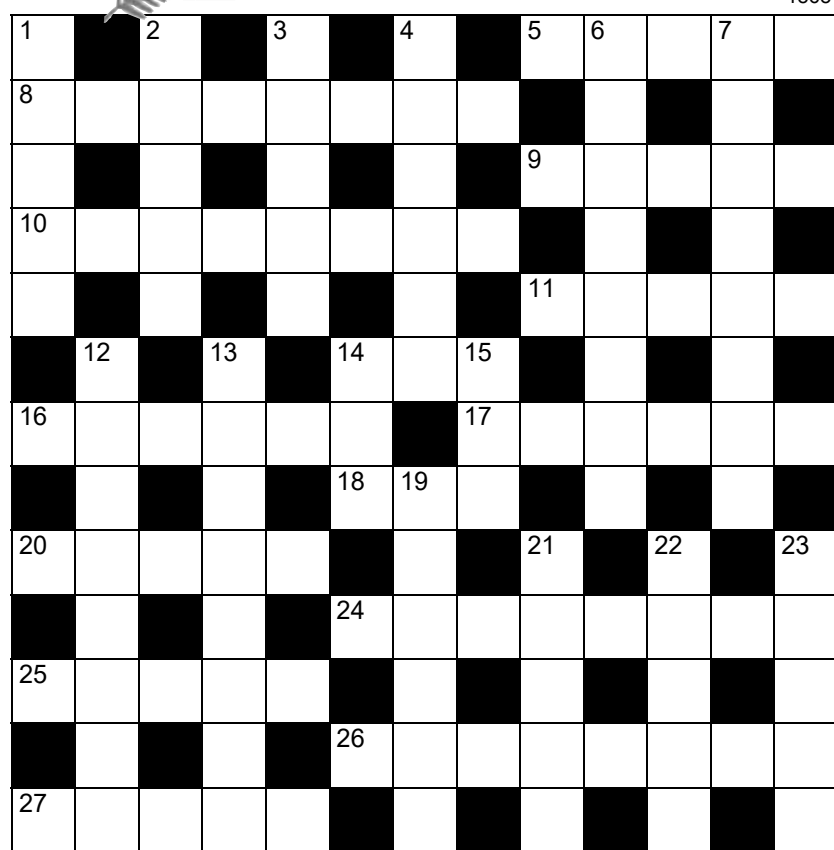
The date will be 22 02 2022, which is also a numerical palindrome (reads the same backwards and forwards).

If you wanted to extend the twos, you could watch the clock for 22 minutes past 2am (or 2pm), or 22 minutes and 22 seconds past 10pm, or 2222.22 on the 24-hour clock.

Or even fly to a village in Botswana, where the map co-ordinates are: S22°22'22", E22°22'22".

THE CROSSWORD

1868



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Across

5. Matched (5)
8. School maths subject (8)
9. North Island lakeside town (5)
10. Theoretical (8)
11. Gaze (5)
14. Unhappy (3)
16. Auckland electorate held by National for 60 years (6)
17. Church and pan-iwi political movement with headquarters near Whanganui (6)
18. Hog house (3)
20. Vegetable based dish (5)
24. Kiwi broadcaster and keen golfer, Peter ____ (8)
25. Member of the clergy (5)
26. Olympic gold medal rower (8)
27. Ten (Maori) (5)

Down

1. Devonshire tea staple (5)
2. Wind instrument (5)
3. Busty (5)
4. Surname of retired Silver Fern legend who married Israel Folau (6)
6. Amount (8)
7. Evident (8)
12. Lotion used to treat itchiness (8)
13. Home town of Judith Collins (8)
14. NZ security organisation (3)
15. Arid (3)
19. Otago gorge popular with railway tourists (6)
21. Showy (5)
22. Relating to birth (5)
23. Theatre attendant (5)

Previous solution

Across: 1. Rest Home, 7. Eight, 8. Port Hills, 9. Vat, 10. Near, 11. Deluge, 13. Tamaki, 14. Prison, 17. Falcon, 18. Carp, 20. Roo, 22. Role model, 23. Batik, 24. Shadbolt.
Down: 1. Ripen, 2. Sarcasm, 3. Huhu, 4. Mullet, 5. Agave, 6. Station, 7. Estuary, 12. Skylark, 13. Thereby, 15. So-and-so, 16. Moolah, 17. Footy, 19. Pilot, 21. Amid.



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06 348 7402 or Kerri Dewson-Pratt 022 196 7355

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Civil Defence

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CLAW community free legal advice

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Disability Resources Centre (Whanganui)

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IRD appointments

06-901-6162

Ngati Rangi Community Health Centre

06-385-9580

Plunket Society

Plunket Nurses 06-385-8265, Car Seats 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

Shelagh Buck 06-385-8610

Rotary, Raetihi - Ohakune

027-344-5669

Ruapehu REAP

0800-00-REAP (0800-00-7327)

Ruapehu Maori Wardens

Rangi Bristol 027-442-4593

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 06-385-3404, 0204-080-4905

Waimarino Health Care Centre

Raetihi 06-385-5019

Women's Refuge

0800-800-4-refuge 0800-4-733-84

Waimarino Community Toy Library

027 728 2413 leave a message (turned on open days only)

Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board

John 'Luigi' Hotter, 06-385-8193; Allan Whale, 06-385-9139; Cynthia Dowsett 06-385-8086. RDC reps Rabbit Nottage, 021 111 6514, Vivienne Hoeta 022-65-88-320, Janelle Hinch 022 385 8683. Other ward councillors Elijah Pue 027 740 6253

National Park Community Board

Board members: Simon O'Neill 021-661-159; Peter Zimmer 027 479 1926; Mark Bolten 021 191 5385; Clark McCarthy 027 475 0561. RDC rep, Murray Wilson 07-892-2774.

Taumarunui/Ohura Ward Committee

07-893-8575; Graeme Cosford, 07-895-7572; Karen Ngatai, 07-896-6658; Kim Wheeler 027-229-1527; Adie Doyle 027-495-3308; Robyn Gram 027 389 1912; Lyn Neeson 07 895 7803

Ruapehu Mayor

Don Cameron, 021 202 7629

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Jess tops Freeride World Tour ranking

Ohakune freeride skier Jessica Hotter is now at the top of the table in the 2022 Freeride World Tour, after she stepped up to the podium again on Saturday.

She now has 18,000 points on the table, so well inside the cut-off for the Tour Finals. She is 1600 points clear of her next rivals, Olivia McNeill from Canada and Lily Bradley from the USA in the women's ski division.

Jess was placed second at the Kicking Horse 'Golden' course in British Columbia in Canada.

This follows her first place run at Ordino-Arcalis in Andorra, a massive step up from her first event in Baqueira Beret in Spain, where she fell onto her back in a spectacular crash.

The Kicking Horse event saw challenging condi-



Jess Hotter, now proud wearer of the tour leader bib.

tions, with the course having to be moved.

The drama started when 115km/h winds affected the mountains around Kicking Horse Golden, B.C. two days before the event and the planned venue, Ozone, bore the brunt of the wind and was left in poor condition.

Following consultation between the riders, guides, and organisers, the decision was made to change venues to T1 South.

The conditions on the new venue were challenging, but with dry conditions across much of North America, it was still a huge victory to complete another successful event.

Her run at Kicking Horse saw commentators talk of her being "well-accustomed to hard pack" snow, coming from New Zealand.

Her run included some big air, smooth lines in a "screamer of a run". She also included and a 'Japan Grab', where the skier reaches the right hand behind the right knee and grabbing the inside edge of the left ski behind the boot (or vice versa).

She did best in her line score (the skiing line she chose), followed by control, then air and style, then technique and fluidity.

Jess and the other leader riders will be wearing the yellow jersey as the tour heads to the first of the two FWT Finals events in Fieberbrunn, Austria (15-20 March).

The race for the world title remains wide open, and champions will ultimately be decided at the final event of the year in Verbier, Switzerland (26 March - 3 April).

World Tour organisers say riders will now take advantage of the short break to rest, recover and prepare before the next competition.

Jess's "rest" includes travel to Vancouver and then to another British Columbia ski area for some filming with her sponsors.



Jess Hotter goes big at Kicking Horse to top the Freeride points table.



Jess Hotter, at right, was second in Saturday's comp but is first on the tour points table. First was Lily Bradley and third was Olivia McNeill.

Te Ara Mangawhero update

There is still no date available for physical work to start on the proposed Te Ara Mangawhero shared trails, from Tūroa to Ohakune and across to Horopito, with work consents still being sought, the *Bulletin* understands.

"The Te Ara Mangawhero Cycle Trail Project will provide definitive starting points of the trail for a rideable route from the mountain road across to Horopito and down to Ohakune. When completed the Project will provide a greater sense of the epic journey from Mountain to Sea," states Ohakune Incorporated in their latest update.

The application with the Department of Conservation has been progressed, but there are still some discussions needed with iwi, writes Ohakune Inc.

"Overall we are experiencing delays managing the details of ownership of built assets on Conservation areas, long term asset management accountability and ensuring that all these matters are acceptable to DOC for the issue of Concession to build, own and operate the trail.

"The project is in the final investigation and design, planning and programming stage with lodgment now expected to be submitted early January and an expected start date in February - March 2022.

"The contract document was finalised in November 2021 and now only requires the latest

Schedule of Price updates from Ruapehu WorX for the contract to be signed.

"The works will be programmed to complete and open sections of the trail progressively on the first tranche of trails.

Works completed to date are;

- Trail investigation data, mapping of each trail section has been completed.
- Ecological assessments final draft report has been shared with key parties.
- Cultural assessment/support is complete with iwi partner being approached for support letters.
- Heritage impact assessment and walkover has taken place with Paul Mahoney.
- Bridge designs compiled for the cycleway project, which has several bridges within its scope.
- Geotechnical report and ground information has been completed to inform bridge designs.
- Construction management plan is in the final draft.

"We are pretty much ready to go but it is important to ensure that the arrangements we put in place meet everyone's needs, particularly iwi and government funders.

"This is a sensitive relationship and has not been done elsewhere with MBIE funded projects like this," concludes Ohakune Inc.

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Home delivery service welcomed by older library users

The COVID19 pandemic has seen Ruapehu District Council's libraries getting imaginative to ensure that their services remain available to everyone in the community, including adding home deliveries of books in Taumarunui.

RDC plans to extend the service south for Raetihi and Ohakune readers.

Libraries manager Fiona Thomas said that Covid-19 restrictions have highlighted the limitations that many library users face in accessing services and the high value they place on them.

"Our librarians have developed relationships with our regular library users and were aware of the impact that Covid-19 and associated restrictions would be having on many of them," she said.

"This was especially so for our older library users who live alone and are not on-line. In addition to losing access to their book supply, they were also missing the social and community connection that visiting the library provided."

In response the librarians reached out to them individually to offer to select and deliver books to their home using Covid-safe protocols.

The success of this service over the lockdown period encouraged the Taumarunui librarians to establish a personal home library service to those who have difficulty getting to a library due to disability,

reduced mobility or other issues.

"In addition to helping select and deliver books the librarians can also assist people access on-line digital content such as ebooks, audio books, information and research databases and movie/documentary streaming services amongst other things."

Mrs Thomas said that current restrictions and staffing issues means the home library service is only being provided in Taumarunui but that they are keen to see it extended to the Ohakune and Raetihi libraries given demand from these communities.

"With this new home delivery service, and our mobile library service to Owango, Kaitieke and National Park schools, we have a vision to expand mobile library coverage to the whole district and service all our rural communities and schools.

"Although limited in scale the success of these mobile library services highlights the benefits they provide and the potential for expansion with the only thing holding us back being our limited resources.

"Ideally we would have a dedicated mobile library vehicle and a group of committed volunteers to help run the service.

"Meanwhile, we will do all we can to help people access our services and so if you, or someone you know has any issues, please do not hesitate to talk with us, call 07 895 7538, or email taumarunui.library@ruapehuc.govt.nz," she said.



Senior Librarian Libby Ogle has a chat with library member Anne Millsted while dropping-off some new books as part of the Taumarunui Library personal home delivery service.

Four-day delay before local case location released

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporter
The Ministry of Health said last week that the region's then two active cases of Covid-19 were in Whanganui city, announced four days after they were discovered, angering some people.

The location was advised after the Whanganui District Health Board refused requests from both the public and the media to release the information.



The DHB confirmed over the weekend that two cases had been discovered in its area. The DHB area covers the Whanganui district and parts of Ruapehu and Rangitikei districts, which include some of the least vaccinated parts of the country.

In response to the DHB's social media advisory

at the weekend, a slew of requests from the public for more information was made, asking it to at least advise in which district, town or rural area the cases were found.

Chief executive Russell Simpson told Local Democracy Reporting the DHB would not provide the location because it wanted to maintain the privacy of the cases.

He said they were isolating in the Whanganui District Council region and were not in SIQ (supervised isolation and quarantine).

Asked to narrow down the location further to a city, town, settlement or rural area, the DHB's Engagement Lead Rhonda Morris said it would not do so.

Turn to Page 8



Ohakune 5 Goldfinch Street

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Four-day delay before local case location released

From Page 7

"It is patient confidentiality," she said. "As advised in the previous email we are respecting the privacy of the people involved. All patients who are treated at our Whanganui DHB deserve privacy. We understand this is a concerning time for our community and can assure them that there are no locations of interest associated to these cases and those involved are being totally compliant and maintain [sic] all the requirements of self-isolating."

Morris said the two cases were isolating at home with support and medical supervision and had requested privacy. Both cases were isolating at home when they tested positive, no exposure events had been linked with either of the cases and there were no locations of interest.

The cases are understood to be from the same household and had travelled out of the district before returning to Whanganui city.

Whanganui DHB did not respond when asked why providing a general location was deemed a risk to patient confidentiality.

The Ministry of Health released Whanganui city as the location after being contacted by Local Democracy Reporting.

Meanwhile, an active case had been found in the rural community of Waimiha in the Ruapehu district. The remote and tiny settlement just north of Taumarunui and Ongarue has a high Māori population. The single case was confirmed by the Waikato District Health Board in its daily list of active cases and their locations.

More cases

On Monday, five more cases were located in Ruapehu's neighbouring district of Rangitikei, all in Marton.

The Whanganui District Health Board said close contact testing and notifications were underway.

Any locations of interest will be advised but as of midday on Monday none were confirmed.

Of the two cases found last weekend in Whanganui city, one is now recovered. The weekend's new cases bring the total number of active cases in the region to six as the expected Omicron surge begins to take hold in the country.

The DHB is advising anyone who has symptoms, including a runny nose, headache, fatigue, sneezing or a sore throat, to isolate and arrange to be tested.

The Te Ranga Tupua iwi collective is holding clinics in Marton, Whangaehu and Taihape over the next few days, and home visits by appointment in Rātana. Whanganui DHB is also scheduling extra pop-up clinics.

The DHB is urging people to remember the basics of Covid-19 protection: scan or provide tracer information when entering public places, wear masks, sanitise hands, keep physical distance from others and get tested if you are feeling unwell. The DHB is also reminding people to check on family and friends and plan ahead for isolating at home.

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PUBLIC NOTICES



Advisory Notice Exercise Baghlan

Combat School, Land Operations Training Centre of the New Zealand Army will be conducting a military exercise from Tuesday 8 March 2022 until Monday 14 March 2022. The exercise will be based in the vicinity of Ohakune Rugby Club, and will cover areas in and around Ohakune.

The Exercise will contain 50 soldiers who will be moving by vehicle and foot, they will be operating with weapons in the area, where blank firing activities will occur.

Inquiries regarding the exercise should be directed to:

Course Manager, WO2 Muschamp
Combat School, Waiouru Military Camp,
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SITUATIONS VACANT



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The opportunity (Karioi Pulpmill)

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About you

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 - have achieved NCEA Level One at minimum, NCEA Level Two preferred.
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About us

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For further information please contact David Millar on 06 385 8545 extension 885, or email jobs@wpinz.com.

To apply for this position please email a letter of application and a resume to jobs@wpinz.com.

Applications close at 12noon, Wednesday, 23 February 2022.

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(Fixed term, 12-month minimum)

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About you

- Demonstrates competence in the use of Microsoft Office and customised software solutions.
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- Able to learn quickly and take instruction while maintaining attention to detail.
- Is an exceptional team player with a 'can do' attitude.
- Holds at minimum NCEA Level One. NCEA Level Two preferred.
- Has a strong health and safety focus and can work in an organised and disciplined way.
- Holds or is able to obtain a Class One driver's license (currently holds Restricted at minimum) and has personal transport to get to and from work.

About us

WPI is committed to ensuring a safe and healthy work environment. As part of the selection process applicants will be required to pass an independently conducted pre-employment health and medical assessment which includes drug testing.

For further information please contact Courtney on 06 385 8545 ext 827 or email jobs@wpinz.com.

To apply for this position please email a letter of application and a resume to jobs@wpinz.com.

Applications close at 9.00am, Thursday, 24 February 2022.

Bosses get call from iwi collective in vaccination drive

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporter
Shearing gangs, market gardeners, meat workers, millworkers and farmworkers could be in line for Covid-19 jabs at their workplaces as an iwi collective chips away at the task to lift Māori vaccination numbers.

The Ranga Tupua iwi collective says it has contacted big employers in Whanganui, South Taranaki, Rangitikei and the Waimarino.

Vaccination co-lead Elijah Pue said the iwi collective has offered to bring mobile clinics to major rural work sites for a day or half a day.

"We've been in touch with most of the big employers – Ātihuā-Whanganui Incorporation, WPI, Ruapehu Shearing, some of the market gardeners.

"We're doing the same for the meatworks out at Waitōtara. In Bulls, in Rangitikei it's the



same there with Te Kōtuku Hauora and Mōkai Pātea going to some of those big employers."

Pue said the mobile clinics are also vaccinating at big events in the region, such as a recent touch event in Taihape.

"We're also understanding what other events might be occurring in the rest of the rohe. All of these places where our people are going to frequent over the next six to eight weeks, we really need to be there."

The iwi collective is into the second half of its 15-week rapid response rollout to the least vaccinated areas, using mobile clinics run by iwi providers Te Oranganui in Whanganui, Mōkai Pātea Services and Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa's Te Kōtuku Hauora in Rangitikei, and Ngāti Rangi in the Waimāriro.

Fewer than 460 vaccinations are needed for Māori 12 years and over in the region to reach the government's 90% first vaccination milestone.

However, vaccinations for tamariki Māori aged 5 to 11 remain very low, with only 451 or 17 percent getting their first shot – the second lowest rate in the country.

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

Raetihi mass returns

Catholic Mass returns to St Patricks Church on Seddon Street, Raetihi this Saturday at the earlier time of 4:00pm, after 18 months of having masses only in Ohakune, due to safety and access concerns.

Local parishioner Elijah Pue said with the recent appointment of Father Peter Brockhill, he was pleased to welcome the community back to St Patricks.

He says that Saturday masses are now held at St Josephs in Ohakune on the first and fourth Saturday, at Maungārongo Marae on the second Saturday and in Raetihi on the third Saturday.

Pulp Mill makes million mark



News, 30 years ago

From the files: WPI celebrated producing their one millionth tonne of pulp in February 1992. The lead picture was of 13 staff who were on deck when the mill produced its first tonne, in the late 1970s.



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