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Council's push-button feedback
P3



Memorial candle bags
P5



Power head torches
P7



Ten minutes with heads
P8

Sinking lid gambling policy splits council

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporter

Ruapehu District Council has voted against a sinking lid policy for pokie machines in a narrow, split decision requiring the mayor to use his casting vote.

Despite going to consultation late last year on a proposal to introduce a sinking lid policy for pokie machines and venues, a motion to stick with current policy – capping the number of gaming machines in the district – split the council 5-5.

The mayor, Don Cameron, said it pained him to do so, but he used his casting vote in favour of the status quo, saying he believed the issue would return to the table in the next few years.

The proposal was to amend the council's Class 4 (Gambling) Venue Policy, which specifies whether class 4 venues can be established and, if so, where they can be located and the number of gaming machines allowed.

If adopted, the policy would have blocked new pokie machines and venues in the district and prevented the transfer of existing machines and licences to new operators or locations, aiming to permanently reduce the number of gambling machines and venues in the district over time.

Social impact

At the time, the council's consultation documents said the negative social impacts

of pokie machines outweighed any positive contribution they made to life in Ruapehu.

"Council believes that this policy is the most effective way to control the growth of class 4 gambling," the consultation document said.



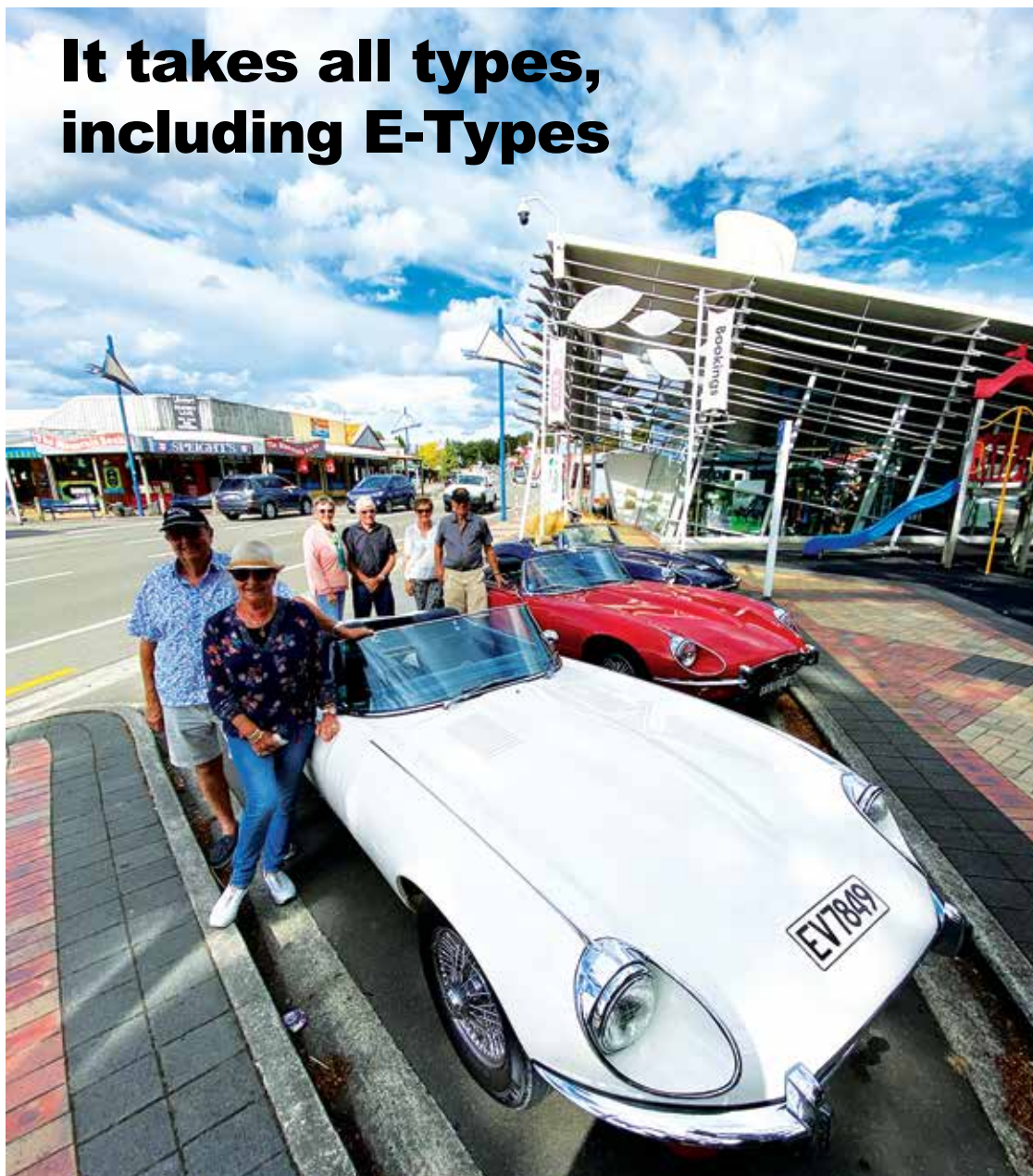
But on Wednesday in the Taumarunui council chambers, Ohura Ward Cr Lyn Neeson said the northern town of Taumarunui could not afford to lose the social and recreational benefits that gaming machines provided.

"Our population is growing. We need to have more to do. We need to consider the new people in our community and there's not a lot to do in town. If they want to go out and have dinner and spend \$20 ... I think that's a healthy thing for them to do and it also provides money for our communities," Neeson said.

"I don't think the council should be the fun police. There's other organisations that are supposed to support these people [problem gamblers] – and if they ... actually did that job, that would be an advantage to

Turn to Page 2

It takes all types, including E-Types



E-Type Jaguar enthusiasts from Tauranga drove around Ruapehu last week on one of their regular rallies. The team spent a night in Whanganui before driving up to Ohakune – a regular stop for enthusiasts of all kinds of cars. After a stop for food, they were planning to drive up to the ski fields, then on to the Chateau Tongariro for another overnight stop. Pictured are Don and Lynley Bowater and their 1973 V12 Jaguar, John and Raewyn Bourke and their red Jag (also 1973) and Roger and Colleen Clark and their blue convertible.



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BAYLEYS

ALTOGETHER BETTER

'We should not be the fun police', says Neeson

From Page 1

anybody who's an addict and having problems.

"Gaming machines provide ability for time out, to socialise, forget, relax. One member of our local community said there's nothing else to do in town and if we want to have a flutter we should be able to."

Neeson said it would be unfair in the current climate to bring in harsher controls, especially in light of the impact of Covid-19.

"We should give these venues a chance," she said.

Neeson put a motion to maintain the status quo, which caps the number of gaming machines in the district at 92. **Abstain**

Taumarunui Ward Cr Adie Doyle, who seconded the motion, suggested councillors with strong personal views on the issue should abstain from voting.

"My personal view is well known. I do not gamble and my wider family has been significantly affected by gambling. But my personal view should not sway my vote."

"The gambling Act was designed to control growth only and not to unfairly limit the availability of gaming machines to the vast majority of responsible gamblers. Since 2012, the number of machines in the district has risen by two. The present setting of a cap is controlling growth."

Doyle said there was no evidential link between problem gambling and the number of gambling machines in the

Ruapehu district.

"Furthermore, I believe we would be doing problem gamblers a disservice by producing a sinking lid policy. This will only drive them to alternative gambling sites where monitoring and counselling is not available. I'm not convinced, given the very low numbers of clients presenting themselves to agencies, that a sinking lid is the best option."

"The risk here is low and the current setting – a cap – is the best way forward. Revenue from gambling machines is in natural decline in any event."

Taumarunui Ward Cr and Deputy Mayor Karen Ngatai also spoke in favour of maintaining the status quo, saying there was no evidence of large numbers of problem gamblers in Taumarunui. She linked the removal of gaming machines to a move to online gambling.

Whole family



Cr Lyn Neeson – opposed to sinking lid gambling policy.

But Waimarino-Waiouru Ward Cr Janelle Hinch said she had seen the effects of gambling in the community. She said the entire family of a problem gambler was affected.

"To say that we don't have people in our district affected by problem gambling is not accurate. If we're looking at feedback, 79 percent of submitters said they support the no-relocation policy."

"Most [submitters] support a sinking lid – we should take that into consideration. It's been said time and time again that there's no direct link between removal of pokies and a move to online gambling. If we want to support our communities to be better off, this is the best policy."

Gambling harm

Waimarino-Waiouru Ward Cr Elijah Pue spoke in favour of introducing a sinking lid policy with no relocation of gaming machines to new venues.

"What I have used in making my decision is what I know in my own community. As elected members, while we do need to make decisions based on evidence, we're also representatives of our communities and so my decision, my thoughts are based on both."

"I know enough of the harm that is caused in my community from gambling across the board – online gambling, EGMs (electronic gaming machines), TAB, Lotto, the works. It is harmful."

"In a community like Raetihi, where average income is \$18,500 a year, and you see these people that are on those benefits and earning that level of money, in the pokies and gambling every day, I think we should be doing everything we can to control that."

"Adopting a sinking lid will not have the material effect on community funding as people have told us. Some of these establishments don't even have the number [of machines] they're entitled to."

Pue said a sinking lid policy would not have any effect on casual gamblers or visiting tourists wanting to put a casual bet on the Melbourne Cup.

"This won't change that. But what I do know is the effects of gambling harm are felt far and wide and have implications across multiple generations within a fam-



Cr Elijah Pue – gambling is harmful.

ily. This is evidenced by what I know of my own community."

"As a council we should be doing everything we can within our control to reduce gambling harm in our communities."

Waimarino-Waiouru Ward Crs Viv Hoeta and Rabbit Nottage, and Taumarunui Ward Cr Robyn Gram also spoke in support of a sinking lid policy.



Cr Adie Doyle.

In her right of reply, Neeson pointed out a strong north-south divide in councillors' positions, noting four of the five councillors who had spoken in favour of a sinking lid policy were from the southern end of the district

"The four councillors that have stated publicly in support of restricting the number of pokies in our town are from the southern end, where you have numerous opportunities to socialise, you have numerous alternatives to a club where pokies are."

"Up here [in the north], where do you go for dinner? Three of [the places] have pokies. It's a social thing for our growing population and in this Covid climate, now is definitely not the time to risk our only pub closing and losing their nine machines."

"Our current cap is 92, there are currently 89. The cap works. We have to allow relocation. I think our decision here is to strongly illustrate that our district is supportive of a bit of social life."

After using his casting vote in favour of existing policy, the Mayor said Taumarunui was quite distinct to southern Ruapehu, home to tourism centre Ohakune. He said the number of machines in the district was not growing, and the council needed to take a wider view of what was right for the region.

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

What's on around Ruapehu

Ohakune Beer Festival	16 April
T42	7 May
Ohakune Carrot Carnival	4 June
Mardi Gras	18 June

Ski, Board & Bike
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Feedback at RDC at the push of a button

New touch-screen technology is making it easier for people to give instant feedback on their experience of Council services and performance.

Team leader regulation Stephen Barnard said that following a two-month trial Council has installed "Happy or Not" satisfaction terminals in the Taumarunui and Ohakune reception areas.

"The simple-to-use touch screen terminals have four multi-coloured faces from smiley to frown where people can provide instant feedback on their service experience by department," he said.

"The feedback is key to Council being able to learn and improve the services we provide and measure staff performance.

"Being able to get feedback by individual department such as animal control, compliance, planning, property, library or customer services allows us to gain insight into customer pressure points."

Over February RDC had 126 people give feedback and that jumped nearly 200 entries in March.

In February 86% of responses were 'excellent', 6% were 'positive', 6% were 'negative' and 2% 'disappointing'.

"We would like to encourage anyone using Council's office or library services in Taumarunui or Ohakune to take a quick minute to tell us about their experience on the way out," he said.

Council is also currently seeking feedback to its annual Level of Service Survey

Policy Analyst Vivita Matanimeke said that where the "Happy or Not" satisfaction terminals measured customer service experience, the Level of Service Survey had a wider set of measures including; leadership, community engagement, consenting,



Team leader regulation Stephen Barnard with the new 'Happy or Not' feedback terminal in Taumarunui. New "Happy or Not" satisfaction terminals in Taumarunui and Ohakune is making it easier for people to give instant feedback on their experience of Council services and performance.

i.Sites and how Council communicates amongst other things.

"The Level of Service Survey provides an important measure of how satisfied the community is with Council's performance in its key operational areas," she said.

"Importantly, it also captures the performance of Council contractors and looks at what people think about the

quality of Council property, parks and reserves, roads, rubbish and recycling and other areas.

"Since the Survey opened in March we have had 116 completed and are hoping for a lot more."

People can answer the Level of Service Survey online via Council's website ruapehucdc.govt.nz or drop by their local Council office for a hardcopy," she said.

First WDHB Covid death reported

The Whanganui DHB reported the area's first Covid-19 related death on the weekend.

"We will not be releasing any further information regarding this situation out of respect for the whānau and friends," said the WDHB's media spokesperson.

"Our DHB and extended community partners are ensuring they receive all the support they need during this sad time and we would like to extend our deepest sympathies to this person's whānau and friends."

Seven new Covid-19 cases were reported in Ruapehu on Monday, part of the WDHB's 249 new cases.

The first case reported in the southern Ruapehu District was reported late in February.

Monday's seven means just on 400 cases have been recorded by the WDHB in southern Ruapehu.

WDHB says there can be a difference between numbers the WDHB reports and the Ministry of Health numbers due to reporting and publishing times.

WDHB advises anyone who has any symptoms of Covid-19, including a runny nose, headache, fatigue, sneezing or a sore throat, to isolate and arrange to be tested.

Call Healthline 0800 358 5453 if you have any concerns or questions.

People can find clinic details for vaccination, locations for RAT test distribution and testing – including clinic details for Waka Hauora (health bus), which is doing mobile clinics in the area, at sites online: www.wdwb.org.nz and www.healthpoint.co.nz/covid-19/

Tuesday's data was not available at the time the Ruapehu Bulletin went to print.



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Ian McKelvie takes aim at cost of living

Ian McKelvie, MP for Rangitikei, which includes Ruapehu, takes a shot at cost of living and the current Government:

• Jacinda Ardern famously said in 2013, “Unemployment, housing and cost of living add up to people losing faith in government”.

This quote couldn’t be more relevant to today. And she’s right, New Zealanders have definitely lost faith in this Government.

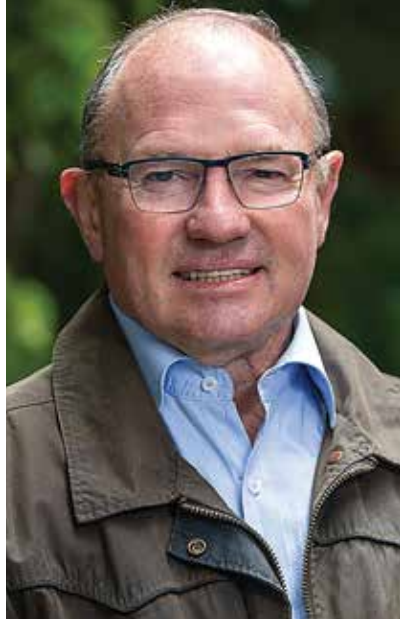
If you’ve been to the supermarket lately, or a gas station or even bought a newspaper and some milk from the dairy, you’ll have experienced the massive rise in inflation – let alone if you’re paying rent or a mortgage. Inflation is at 5.9% and rising, which is the highest it’s been in 30 years. The cost of living has skyrocketed, especially over the last four years.

Rural and provincial New Zealand is always hit particularly hard by inflation, especially fuel costs as we invariably travel further to access goods and services and even to get to work and school. Similarly, the goods and services we buy often have to travel further to get to us.

To add insult to injury, New Zealand workers are effectively earning less now, as wages fail to keep pace with rising inflation – and those on the lowest incomes are the hardest hit. The latest available data puts average wage inflation at just 2.6 per cent. Kiwis have to work longer hours just to stand still – further evidence that this Labour Government is losing control

of the economy. And surging inflation is a real threat to economic growth.

Kiwis need relief from the cost of living crisis. Now more than ever is the time to adjust tax brackets for inflation. If not now, then when? Someone earning \$55,000 a year would pay \$800 less tax under National’s plan to adjust tax brackets for inflation. Letting Kiwis keep more of what they earn would help insulate families from inflation and restore confidence to an economy that’s heading into dangerous territory.



Ian McKelvie.

Ruapehu housing in crisis, says Kirton

Statistics have a way of telling a story many of us are choosing to overlook – that is housing in Ruapehu is in crisis.

If there is one issue that impacts above all else in Ruapehu, it is having a warm, secure and affordable home. Without one, life for families in the district can quickly become a precarious hand to mouth existence. Sadly, the statistics tell us that less than 65% of Ruapehu residents own their own home. For every 100 tenancy bonds, there are 30 are short term stay properties, (the highest in New Zealand alongside Queenstown).

On census night in 2018, one third of the district’s 7101 homes were unoccupied. Our emphasis on attracting tourism as income for the district is having a disastrous knock-on effect on our housing affordability and availability. Two percent of our population is in severe housing deprivation. Rents in Taumarunui range between 30 and 40 percent of

total income, making the transition from renting to buying an almost impossible dream.

Ruapehu is actually more affordable to those outside the district than our own residents.

This needs to change – market driven solutions to our local housing crisis are not working.

Our council’s efforts so far haven’t made any real difference. What is needed is a solution-driven approach that brings together all housing stakeholders from Kāinga Ora, local iwi, Council and housing associations striving to produce a range of affordable housing locally.

We need to see a range of housing from social to affordable and rent to buy. The provision of affordable and accessible housing is the first and most important step in achieving thriving local communities for all of Ruapehu. It is a goal we must undertake without further delay.

Weston Kirton, Horizons Regional Councillor

Ka Mate, an ancient taonga

• Last week the *Bulletin* reported a Tuwharetoa rangatira stating Ka Mate was composed by Te Rauparaha.

A Ngati Toa rangatira provided material for Gov. Grey’s 1853 book ‘Ko Nga Motetea’, containing “ancient poems, still lingering in the memories of a large portion of the population.” This book included a longer ‘Upoko’ version of Ka Mate.

In 1857 a Hauraki group presented Ka Mate and Toia Mai to Auckland scholars as a peace-making song, giving the meaning of ‘It smites, it strikes’ to the line ‘U pane, kau pane.’

A Kawhia tohunga later explained it referred to Maui striking the sun’s head to slow it down, a metaphor for a strong leader imposing long “sunny” periods of peace. The ‘Tenei te tangata puhuruhuru...’ lines have been associated with the chant used to haul the Tainui voyaging waka across the Tamaki isthmus, while variations of the ancient couplet ‘Ka mate, ka ora’ are used all around the Pacific.

In the early 1800s, Te Rauparaha rallied his supporters with skilful modifications of several other widely-known motetea - Haramai Ana, Kikiki Kakaka, and Te Tai o Kawhia - just as Te Kooti did later in the century with Pinepine Te Kura and Takoto Rawa Iho.

In 1939, the Te Rauparaha fable was used to convey to the 28th Battalion the truth that Maori warriors could rise again after taking serious casualties. In 2012 Ngati Toa took legal guardianship of Ka Mate to stop the commercialisation of an ancient cultural taonga, just as the Tomoana family in Hastings did with the Northland waiata Pokarekare Ana.

I do hope the new fact-based New Zealand history syllabus makes use of all the Ka Mate stories. (tinyurl.com/oldkamate)

John Archer

Raetihi pool too

• Now that both the community board and council have approved the plans put forward by Ohakune Incorporated for refurbishment and upgrade of the Ohakune swimming pool, let us not lose sight of the aspirations of the neighbouring township Raetihi, for their pool.

The future of both pools has long been linked by Council and has been the subject of two reports by outside consultants.

Letters

We now know the aspirations of both townships and how they wish their respective pools to be upgraded.

Raetihi want to see their pool refurbished and be a year-round facility. This will require a repair of the significant leak and re-roofing, cladding and a heating system that will function in an alpine environment.

This isn’t a big ask, but the simple upgrade and maintenance of a council-owned facility that we should have budgeted for.

Raetihi have indicated in the latest survey for the township’s proposed hub, that the pool is the towns taonga. They also indicated in the earlier revitalisation consultation that the upgrade of the pool was their priority.

The township’s revitalisation fund has yet to be spent. We have had the consultants reports, and we have had the consultations, and yes we have the funding.

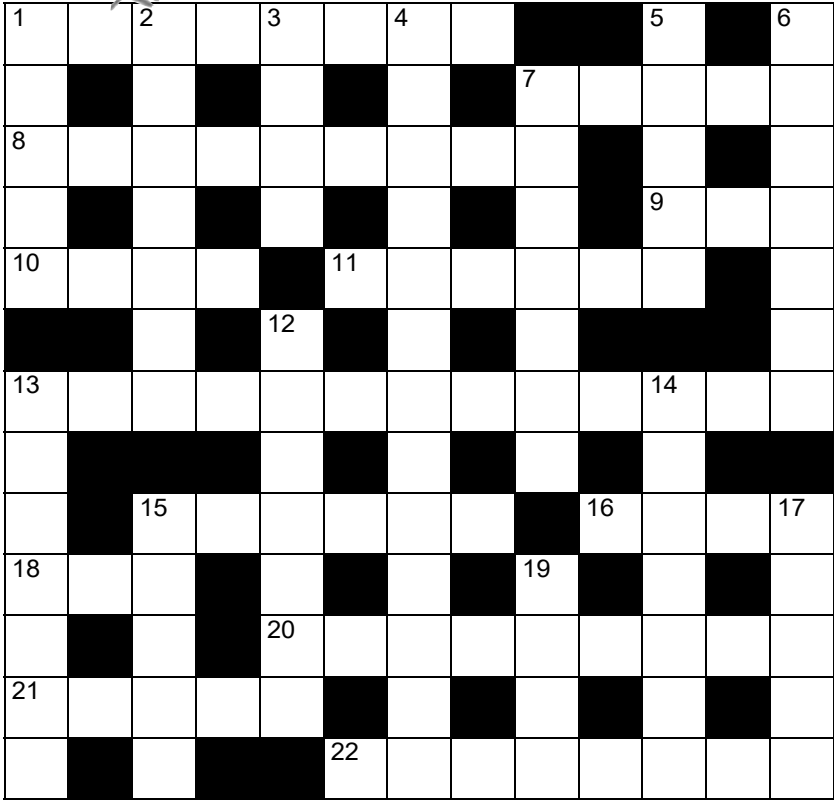
As a council we have a responsibility to assist with all our townships aspirations.

Now it is Raetihi’s turn, let’s give them the facility they have patiently waited for without further delay.

John Chapman

THE CROSSWORD

1875



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Across

1. An unorthodox person (8)
7. Maori burial ground (5)
8. Otago’s Courtney Duncan is a three-time world champion in this sport (9)
9. Piece of turf (3)
10. Heal (4)
11. Sheepdog (6)
13. Whakatane-born star of Australian rugby league teams 2003-2020 (5,8)
15. Flavoured water ice (6)
16. Lure (4)
18. Acronym for government agency that manages public land (3)
20. Mathematical calculations tool with a movable central strip (5,4)
21. Shine (5)
22. Iconic New Zealand cheese, sold in slices rather than blocks (8)

Previous solution

Across: 1. Ferris wheel, 8. Netball, 9. Eager, 10. Upon, 11. Out to it, 12. MMP, 13. Deka, 15. Item, 17. NAC, 19. Compare, 20. Char, 23. Tonga, 24. Undoing, 25. Sausage roll.

Down: 1. Fondue, 2. Retro, 3. Ilam, 4. Wallop, 5. Electric, 6. Lughole, 7. Karate, 12. Manawatu, 14. Edmonds, 16. Scythe, 17. Nebula, 18. Frugal, 21. Hoiho, 22. Edge.

Down

1. Imitate (5)
2. Old hand (7)
3. Wealthy (4)
4. Popular Kiwi confectionery, originally a reward for a job well done (9,4)
5. Oath (5)
6. Unfair treatment (3,4)
7. Serving no purpose (7)
12. Stray off the subject (7)
13. Wound covering (7)
14. Long-time Cook Strait ferry (7)
15. Icecream serving utensil (5)
17. Motif (5)
19. Charges (4)



ISSN 1170-1676 (print)
ISSN 1178-7406 (online)

Published by Ruapehu Media Ltd

Phone (06) 385 8532

45 Clyde Street, Ohakune.
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Advertising Rep: Jude Chevin – ads @ ruapehubulletin.co.nz

Printed by Stuff Printers, Petone

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Raetihi 06-385-5019

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

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Ohakune pools plan gains RDC support

A plan to add “commercial style spas” and a café to the Ohakune Swimming Baths has been given approval in principle by the Ruapehu District Council at their meeting in Taumarunui on Wednesday.

The Waimarino Waiouru Community Board had voted to support the proposal in principle at their meeting earlier in March.

John Latimer, from Community Leisure Management Ltd, (CLM), presented the proposal to the RDC. The proposal has the backing of Ohakune Incorporated.

Deputy mayor Karen Ngati queried the cost of the project, asking the CEO “shouldn’t we be talking about the costs”, referring to the estimate of between \$4m and \$8m.

CEO Clive Manly said the project, while using council property, would be developed at “no cost to council”.

Councillors were told that the project leaders were seeking support in principle for the plan so they can go to the next step of developing a “proper business case”.

Marae mourns passing of Raana Mareikura



Raana ‘Aunty Biddy’ Mareikura.

Whānau around the motu are in mourning this week following the passing of Raana “Aunty Biddy” Mareikura at Whanganui Hospital on Sunday. She was in her 90th year.

Her funeral service is being held on Wednesday 6 April at Maungārongo Marae and, from there, she will be taken to Ra-

ketapauma Marae (Irirangi, Waiouru) to be buried with hākari back at Maungārongo.

A final whakaekē for manuhiri is being held before the service at 9am.

Covid guidelines are being followed with all manuhiri requested to undertake a RAT test which are available for free at Maungārongo, along with wearing a mask.

Remembering cancer victims



Around 50 people gathered at the Ohakune Carrot Park on Saturday night to set out a decorated candle bag, to honour loved ones who have passed away due to cancer. Children from Ohakune Primary School taking part in the William Pike Challenge provided a barbecue for the “very successful evening”, said Peggy Frew from the Waimarino Cancer Society, who added that the Raetihi Choir provided entertainment. As well as being held to help families with their memorials, the event is part of the Waimarino Cancer Society’s fundraising efforts. Also, the ‘Relay Your Way’ raised over \$2000 through the local Society’s coffee relay. Photo courtesy of Jo Hiscox.

BAYLEYS

NEW LISTING



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Regional Council elections plan approved

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporter

The Local Government Commission has upheld Horizons Regional Council’s proposal for representation arrangements for local body elections in October.

Following the regional council’s representation review last year, the Commission has backed Horizons’ final proposal for a 14-seat council, including two new Māori seats.

It says the arrangements provide effective representation of communities of interest and fair representation for voters in the Manawātū-Whanganui region.

Horizons will keep its existing six general constituencies of Ruapehu, Whanganui, Manawātū-Rangitikei, Palmerston North, Tararua and Horowhenua, and bring in two new Māori constituencies: Raki Māori (Māori North) and Tonga Māori (Māori South).

The Commission’s determination announced on Thursday follows a hearing in February into the single appeal against the council’s final representation review proposal.

The appeal supported the introduction of Māori seats but questioned the size of the general constituencies, including whether the Ruapehu general constituency was viable given its relatively low population, and whether there should be more seats for urban populations.

Horizons acknowledged concerns that the urban voice might be under-represented but said many of the responsibilities of regional councils focused on rural areas, such as environmental and freshwater management.

The council said it had decided against merging smaller constituencies such as Ruapehu and Tararua with others because it would result in unnatural groups of communities of interest and would not support effective representation.

It said the Ruapehu constituency in particular was a large, remote and isolated part of the region and there were long-established reasons for a separate Ruapehu constituency.

The electoral roll an elector is registered on determines which constituency they can vote in. Electors on the general roll can vote in one of Horizons’ general constituencies and electors on the Māori roll can vote in a Māori constituency.

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

Headlights from power firm

The local LandSAR group RARO (Ruapehu Alpine Rescue Organisation) became a benefactor of the Trustpower Heartland Community Fund earlier this year, helping with the purchase of safety equipment.

The purpose and mission for LandSAR is offering specialist search and rescue skills free to the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week in support of the New Zealand Police.

In this case, the Trustpower Heartland Community Fund is helping to provide safety equipment over and above what the national organisation can currently provide.

LandSAR volunteers provide a safety net for community members enjoying the outdoors for physical and mental well-being reasons. The Trustpower funding allowed for the purchase of safety equipment, which assists LandSAR members to find lost, missing or injured people and return them to their loved ones.

RIGHT: RARO equipment store manager Dylan Grace receives a box of Fenix Headlights that were purchased thanks to the generous support from Trustpower. Photo: Peter Zimmer LandSAR Group Support Officer.



Sky climb for fire crew

Five volunteers from the Ohakune Fire Brigade are taking on the Sky Tower again on 28 May, aiming to raise \$10,000 for the cancer sufferers.

Last year the team raised over \$8500 for Leukaemia and Blood Cancer New Zealand.


“Yes, it’s been an interesting year with so many global events turning the world upside down,” says team leader Sean ‘Doogs’ Drinkwater.

“However, there are everyday people here in New Zealand dealing with their own health struggle on a daily basis.

“I think this is a great cause. If you have a couple of coins kicking around on the dresser I’d appreciate you sending them my way and I’ll make sure they get to someone who will truly appreciate it!”

Readers can donate through the firefighter-schallenge.org.nz website (click on ‘Donate’ and search for ‘Ohakune’).





Ruapehu College Information Evening

Nau mai, haere mai!

Ruapehu College invites students and their whanau, currently in Year 7 or 8, to an information evening in the Hall on Wednesday 13th April at 6pm.

Come and hear about what we have to offer you and your tamariki in their secondary education journey. There will be information on our school values, expectations, NCEA achievement, and much more!

Key staff and our Head Prefect team will be on hand to show you around the kura, followed by light refreshments and informal conversation.

We look forward to seeing you there!

For further information, please contact us directly on 06 385 8398 or send us a message on Facebook.



Ten minutes with Ruapehu College leaders



Ruapehu College's student leaders, from left, Una Drayton, Cameron Smith and Kayla Jordan.

Eye on Ruapehu College, contributed by staff and students

Ruapehu College interviewed three of their student leaders on their roles for 2022:

Ten minutes with Una Drayton, Head Girl

Why did you apply for a leadership role and what do you hope to achieve?

This school has given me so many opportunities, so when nominations for leadership roles came about it felt natural for me to put my hand up. I want to make a positive impact and give back to the school, and make it feel really inclusive and safe.

You are a very studious and conscientious student, what are you working on achieving at the moment, what are your goals for the year?

I am currently working on completing MAX, which is a Math programme run by The University of Auckland and available to high achieving year 13 students. Later in the year, I will attend Blake Inspire, which is an environmental programme, which I am very much looking forward to. I am also working on putting my first proposal together for the Board, which will hopefully make an undervalued but significant change for our students.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

I should have completed my university degree and then plan to take a travelling break, which will very likely include a trip to Italy with my mum. When I return, I hope to secure an enjoyable position somewhere to utilise my skills and talents.

What have you valued the most about your time spent at Ruapehu College?

I really value that it's a small school. I have had invaluable one-on-one time with my teachers and made great connections with them. This has really allowed me to customize my education. For example, completing Level 2 and 3 in one year.

Outside of school and studying, what interests do you have or how do you usually spend your free time?

I love skiing, jazz and ballet dancing and, of course, hanging out with my friends

Who inspires you and why?

My mum. She is just simply amazing, enough said.

What advice would you give your younger self?

Don't stress about things. Just do your best.

Do you have a motto or mantra you live by?

My happiness is my #1 priority.

10 minutes with Cameron Smith - Ruapehu College Head Boy

Why did you apply for a leadership role and what do you hope to achieve in this role?

It's a good opportunity to support the school, to help organize, learn new skills and a chance to help others. I really want to push academics and encourage other students to reach for higher than achieved marks.

You are a very studious and conscientious student, what are you working on achieving at the moment? What are your goals for this year?

I am just really focused on achieving high marks. And another focus of mine is to establish a robust and long lasting student council portfolio for future student leaders of the school.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

Hopefully I would have finished my engineering degree in Canterbury and then I will confi-

dently walk through the doors of Rocket Lab to secure a position. Apparently, I am too tall to be an astronaut.

What have you valued the most with your time at Ruapehu College?

The class sizes are awesome, we can smash out so much work in our lessons and get so much more one-on-one time with our teachers because the classes are smaller. I feel like I know everyone in the school and I enjoy the fact that we can all get together for school sports and the like.

Outside from school and studying, what other interest do you have or how do you usually spend your free time?

To be honest my focus is school work at the moment. If I had free time I would be hunting or doing some archery and likely the two combined.

Who inspires you and why?

My dad. I'm not sure why - he just does.

What has been your biggest challenge or fear?

I don't have a fear to say, but a challenge of mine is to be quieter in class.

What advice would you give to your younger self?

Never be afraid to ask questions, even the dumb ones. I got to the point where I was asking the questions that others were too scared to ask. I figure the teachers are there to help us do better so ask away.

Do you have a motto or manta you live by?

On my wall I have - 'No one cares, work harder'. Ha-ha. That sounds harsh but no one is going to give you what you want so work harder and do it yourself.

10 minutes with Kayla Jordan - Deputy Head Student

Why did you apply for a leadership role and what do you hope to achieve in this role?

When I was in yr 9 and 10 I remember looking up to the leaders at that time and wanted to be there for the newcomers to the school myself. I am not an athletic person, so I hope to encourage more activities where those students not involved in sports get a chance to shine also.

You are a very studious and conscientious student, what are you working on achieving at the moment? What are your goals for this year?

This year I hope to keep up my academic work, I have also started working and generally preparing myself for life beyond the bells.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

I see myself in a role where I am helping others.

What have you valued the most with your time at Ruapehu College?

Coming from a small school, I enjoyed meeting new students and learning about their background. The College is a great meeting place for all the small schools in the area.

Outside of school and studying, what interests do you have or how do you usually spend your free time?

I love playing music and being with my friends. We will often play problem solving games, which are similar to escape room scenarios. I have also just taken on a part-time job.

Who inspires you and why?

I admire my parents and those people who are constant in my life, they have helped me become the person I am today.

What has been your biggest challenge or fear?

Turn to Page 10

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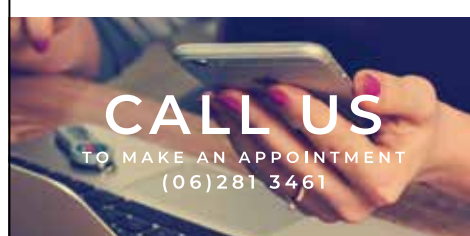
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PUBLIC NOTICES



WHANGANUI RIVER ENHANCEMENT TRUST
Annual Call for Funding Applications

Formed in 2002 as an agreement between Whanganui District Council, Ruapehu District Council and Genesis Energy, the Trust's objective is to promote and encourage the enhancement of the waters and catchments of the Whanganui River. The Trust is now calling for funding applications for Whanganui River Enhancement Projects (Environmental, Economic and/or Social).

For this funding round the Trust will give priority consideration to applications for innovative environmental projects that help contribute to the health and wellbeing of the Whanganui River Catchment.

Specific criteria apply. Application forms are available from:

- Whanganui District Council Office:
101 Guyton St, Whanganui - 06 349 0001
- Ruapehu District Council Office:
59-61 Huia St, Taumarunui - 07 895 8188.
- Trust Secretary - c/o Tokaanu Power Station, SH47, Turangi - 07 985 5066

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Outward Bound youth disability course scholarships available

Outward Bound has scholarships available for two new 8-day courses for youth with a physical disability:

Youth Activate is an 8-day course for physically disabled youth aged 16-18 years. The course is suitable for teens who are independent, able to communicate clearly and who can travel and attend without a carer. The next course is scheduled for 10-17 May 2022. Applications close Thurs 14 April 2022 but will be filled on a first in-first served basis.

Leaps and Bounds Activate is a course for physically disabled youth aged 13-16 years and their parent or caregiver. The next course is 10-17 October 2022. Applications close Friday 9 September 2022 but will be filled on a first in-first served basis.

Both courses are proudly supported by the Lindsay Foundation and are fully funded excluding transport and medical costs. They are an amazing opportunity for young people to challenge themselves physically and mentally and discover their potential in the outdoors.

For more information contact Adapted Course Partner Leonie King lking@outwardbound.co.nz or call 0800 OUTWARD.



Outward Bound youth development organisation is offering scholarships to disabled youth.

Ten minutes with College leaders

From Page PB

Believing that I was good enough to take on the challenges that really tested my comfort zone. I have had to keep telling myself not to give up when things got hard or uncomfortable.

What advice would you give to your younger self?

Just go for it, take on any opportunity that you even slightly considered.

Do you have a motto or manta you live by?

Always be kind

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Billie's building her future

Billie Hemopo is on a roll. She aced her New Zealand Certificate in Construction Skills Level 3 last year and now has more projects in her sights.

Doing an art course got Billie interested in architectural design and she knew that building would give her a practical view of this. Fortunately, Monty and Janet Te Ahuru run a carpentry skills programme for UCOL right in Billie's hometown of Taumarunui, and they were well known to be good people.

This gave Billie the confidence to give it a go, so she had no worries about the programme before it started. Billie says that she enjoyed a lot of the training and found her classmates were "just like working with family."

"Since it is my hometown I saw a lot of familiar faces, so I never was uncomfortable in the environment," says Billie.

She found that "Monty was easy to work with and funny every day ... but pay attention, 'cause he will make you take it all off and do it again!"

When Billie discovered that she was the only girl on the programme, Janet's company kept her unfazed.

Monty and Janet found Billie to be a

natural: onto it from the start, understanding directions easily, and clued up with the paperwork — she just clicked with construction. Billie grew into a leader who helped her classmates get the work procedures right. Janet predicts that Billie "will no doubt learn and work hard to achieve her goal of becoming a qualified builder."

Billie was supported by Kelly Johnston, then Kaiarahi for UCOL's Maori and Pacific Trades Training Scheme, which covered Billie's programme fees and incidental costs. Kelly also helped Billie with her Student Allowance application, and ensured Billie had some of the essential tools needed for her apprenticeship.

A respected local builder is keen to take Billie on for an apprenticeship, showing once more how the Taumarunui community is an active partner of the programme and its graduates. Through the programme Billie found that she loves building - now she's open to try everything in the building industry.

For anyone interested in following Billie's trail into construction, her advice is to be on time or you'll be left behind, and "don't put hinges on the outside of your tool box, guys."



Billie Hemopo is on a roll in her building career. Photo supplied.

Women important members of rescue crews

To mark International Women's Day last month, the rescue helicopter service, chatted with the crew behind the life saving service.

The service says there are many "incredible wāhine out there", including their intensive care paramedics and crew, Kat, Flick, Diane, Aeron, Jess, Libbie, Leigh and Janine, who have dedicated their lives to saving others every single day.

"The rescue helicopter service believe wholeheartedly in equality and celebration of the determination and hard work these women have shown to get to where they are now and continue to show every day in their roles onboard the rescue helicopters," says Alexandra Paley, marketing co-ordinator.

"Without them, your rescue helicopters would not have completed the over 2000 missions they did last year."

Crewman, Leigh, has now been working onboard the Palmerston North Rescue Helicopter for just over a year. Following is an insight into her experience working onboard as a Crewman, and some of the amazing achievements she has made so far.

Leigh always knew she wanted to work in medicine and loves a challenge. She joined the Palmerston North Rescue Helicopter with a Bachelor of Health Science and eight years of experience as an Air Force Medic under her belt. She has put her expertise to the test, undergoing specific trainings such as winch training and HUET (Helicopter Underwater Escape Training) to ensure she is fit and rescue-ready for all missions.

Leigh has faced her fair share of challenges, tackling some tough obstacles. With the constantly changing environment of a rescue helicopter, no two days are the same. From route planning to weather navigation, Leigh must remain adaptable for her ever-evolving role. Combining the two worlds of aviation and medicine is something Leigh is perfecting, to provide the best care possible for all patients in need across the North Island.

Ohakune squash

Inter-business results from last week: In pool A, Hobbled beat Shifty Fellas 11-5, Rock beat Park It Up 12-8 and Survivors beat Under Construction 11-6. In pool B, Simon Sez beat Plus One 12-6, Hard Ones beat Riley's Rockstars 11-6 and Barensons beat Magnum PI 15-4. Scores with new member bonuses added in and one round to go are: Pool A – Rock 57, Park It Up 51, Shifty Fellas 43, Hobbled 39, Survivors 27 and Under Construction 11. Pool B Barensons 51, Simon Sez 48, Riley's Rockstars 45, Hard Ones 35, Magnum PI 25 and Plus One 22.

Draw for this Thursday's final pool play round: At 5:30pm on New World Court – Survivors vs Hobbled, on T.C.B./Jones Bro's Court – Rock vs Shifty Fellas, on Trust Power Court – Under Construction vs Park It Up. At 6:45pm on New World Court – Hard Ones vs Plus One, on T.C.B./Jones Bro's Court – Simon Sez vs Maghnum PI, on Trust Power Court – Riley's Rockstars vs Barensons.

Saving lives and providing medical care to patients that need it most, in what is often the darkest time of their lives is something that Leigh can be proud of, however, the impact that comes along with working in a role like Leigh's, can often take its toll. Leigh is thankful for her husband, family, and fellow rescue crew.

"I am really lucky that I have a very supportive partner and family who I am able to talk to. Otherwise, a bar of chocolate and a bush walk helps me to destress".

When asked to think about her favourite memory, Leigh recounts all the wonderful moments where patients reunited with their rescue crew to say thank you for saving their life. One memory that Leigh keeps dear to her heart is the handwritten card from a young boy the Palmerston North Rescue Helicopter rescued from a mountain after he had injured himself on a ski field. After a few weeks' recovery, the thoughtful young man gifted a handmade card to his rescue crew, which not only made their day, but has left a lasting fond memory for Leigh.

In a male-dominated field, Leigh's determination and skills have demonstrated the significance of women onboard the rescue helicopter service. Leigh's advice to young women with dreams of entering the field is simple – "if you have passion, the job will find you". There is no direct route into becoming a Crewman, but your perseverance and hard work is what will shine through.

Leigh, like her fellow rescue crew, has set some pretty exciting goals for

the year. Not only has she very recently married, but she is also building a house and working towards gaining her certification to wet winch, furthering her rescue skills and challenging her knowledge of winch rescues.

Kat, Crewman for the TECT Rescue Helicopter, is another awesome member of the rescue crew. Kat hopped onboard with an array of experience from working as a medic in the Royal New Zealand Airforce where she completed her Bachelor of Health Science. Outside of work, she dabbles in gaming and practices Raranga (weaving) in her spare time. She gravitated towards the medical field because she has always wanted to help people, and what better way to do this than working onboard a rescue helicopter.

Kat loves to hear about patient's recoveries and seeing the impact her job has on people. From friends to whānau, Kat sees first-hand the initial raw and real emotions that come with every mission. This can be difficult at times, particularly at the scene of critical accidents and is something she finds quite challenging, but with her fellow crew

backing and supporting her, she is able to navigate this challenge by talking it through with the team.

The rescue helicopter is a service that is lucky enough to have the support of the community behind it, and this is Kat's favourite thing about her role. She relives her fondest memory of working with the rescue helicopters, where the locals selflessly pitched in to help their rescue crew get to where they needed to be.

"After landing in a field in Mangakino due to the density of the houses we had a few streets to walk before we got to the patient. Luckily a local was driving by and stopped to give us a lift, so with all our gear myself and the ICP crammed into her tiny hatchback. She was stoked that she could help us and someone in her community and to be a part of the process".

Over 2022, Kat hopes to be involved in some technically challenging jobs, to further her expertise and knowledge so that she can always remain rescue ready. After a challenging and isolating year, she also hopes to spend more quality time with her whānau and friends.



Rescue crewmember Kat.

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Ruapehu Autumn BULLETIN

Priceless newspaper
Autumn 2022

Your guide to Ruapehu in Autumn

Jacob Oxford and Frankie Shaw showing off their dance moves on the track between Oturere Hut to Waihohonu Hut, which is gently undulated over wide open gravel fields and a number of dried up stream valleys. "Any large boulder we came across, had to be scaled," says Jacob's mother Tasha, of their recent Tongariro Northern Circuit adventure.

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