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Ruapehu Bulletin

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Kiwis bought a beach now needed 'to save a mountain'

The first stage of a crowdfunding campaign to keep Mt Ruapehu's slopes in public hands has been launched by a group of the mountain's life pass holders and supporters.

Inspired by the successful public purchase of a South Island beach in 2016, the Ruapehu Skifields Stakeholders Association (RSSA) is calling on all fellow life pass holders, community, Iwi, businesses, holiday home owners, skiers, boarders, season and day pass holders, hikers, clubbies, tourists and the public who have a connection to the maunga to initially join the RSSA to ensure a unified voice to help keep the Whakapapa and Tūroa skifields in community ownership.

Weeks away

"The meeting to decide the fate of the skifields is now only weeks away," said Jason Platt, chairman of the RSSA.

"We are calling on the 14,000 life pass holders and other mountain stakeholders to join the RSSA to ensure we have a unified and powerful voice to help keep Tūroa and Whakapapa facilities in community ownership for the benefit of future generations."

The independent not-for-profit organisation Ruapehu Alpine Lifts Limited (RAL) ran the operations on the maunga for 70

years before debt, exacerbated by Covid and weather-related closures, led it into voluntary administration under Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC) in October 2022.

Life pass holders, who make up the largest group of creditors of RAL are being asked to mobilise to save our treasured Mt Ruapehu skifields keeping them in community ownership. Over the years over \$40 Million has been raised selling life passes to committed Ruapehu skiers and boarders.

More funding

The Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) has provided additional funding to PwC to allow the skifields to continue to trade until the start of the 2023 winter season and to provide time for a long-term plan to be formulated. All creditors, which includes Life Pass Holders, will vote on a plan on at a watershed meeting planned for early May.

Several competing plans for the future of the Maunga have so far been proposed, which would see the mountain's facilities move into private ownership.

The RSSA favours a community ownership model where profits are re-invested into maintaining and developing the public areas, not paid out in dividends.

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Raetihi Marae hosts ANZAC service



Raetihi Marae hosts the dawn service for ANZAC Day on Tuesday in what is thought to be the first time in around 70 years. Afterwards, more than 200 people – returned servicemen and women, service groups, descendants of war veterans and families – marched to the Raetihi urupa then on to the Raetihi Cemetery memorial gates. Services were also held at Ohakune, Waiouru and at Mangapura. Photos: Jude Chevin.

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ANZAC at Mangapurua



The Mangapurua ANZAC memorial – to the World War One servicemen who settled in the valley – was once again the site for a special ANZAC Day service on Tuesday. Photo supplied.

Kiwi return to Tongariro Forest

Eighteen years after four kiwi chicks were gifted from Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro to Ngāti Korokī Kahukura to create a founder population of kiwi at Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari, kiwi have returned to their whenua (homeland).

In 2005, Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro, one of the mana whenua of Tongariro, gifted four one-month-old chicks, two males and two females, to Ngāti Korokī Kahukura, the resident iwi of Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari. These manu (birds) were the first kiwi to reside within the predator-free sanctuary in the heart of the Waikato, near Cambridge,

and the first to be seen on Maungatautari for over 100 years.

Since then, with the support of Save the Kiwi's Kōhanga Kiwi project, over 400 kiwi chicks from the western region of the North Island have joined those original four birds, creating a founder population on the maunga.

Today, because kiwi can safely breed within the sanctuary's predator-free perimeter fence, an estimated 2000-2500 kiwi now call Maungatautari home.

On Friday 21 April, nine juvenile and adult kiwi were transported in purpose-built travel boxes from Sanctuary Mountain

Maungatautari to Tongariro. After being formally welcomed to Otūkou Marae with pōwhiri, the birds were released back into forest from where they originated. Over the next month, up to 60 kiwi will be released at various sites across the base of Mt Tongariro.

This move acknowledges the tikanga of tonō (a process of asking for and exchanging taonga between iwi) while recognising the impact those original birds have had on building a sustainable population of Western brown kiwi.

Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro kaumatua Te Ngahe Wanikau was part of the

original group that accompanied the four kiwi to Maungatautari back in 2005. Mr Wanikau said the original gifting of kiwi was less about the manu and more about whakapapa connections.

"When Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro gifted those original birds, we handed over the role and responsibility of kaitiaki of the kiwi to Ngāti Korokī Kahukura at the same time," Mr Wanikau said.

"We needed to have comfort that the kiwi would be cared for and protected for the long-term. Returning the offspring of these birds back to Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro reflects how

well Ngāti Korokī Kahukura cared for these kiwi as kaitiaki."

Central to this release – and all future releases from Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari – is the tonō process, a reciprocal mana-to-mana agreement between Ngāti Korokī Kahukura and other iwi. In this instance the translocation of kiwi cements whakapapa connections between maunga and people.

"This could not have taken place without the blessing of (then) Queen Te Atairangiā and Ta Tumu Te Heuheu. This tikanga (tradition) sets the standard for all translocations to and from Maungatautari."

Ngāti Korokī Kahukura representative Tao Tauroa said the first major release of kiwi from Maungatautari to Tongariro was significant because the terms of the original tonō have been honoured, and although many of those involved in the tonō have passed on, the intent of the rangatira (elders) remained.

"18 years ago, the maunga was bereft of kiwi," Tauroa said. "Thanks to Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro, this taonga species has returned to a place where it once thrived. Now with deep gratitude, it is an honour and privilege to return these mokopuna of the original founders to their maunga, whenua and people, and for their founder role in reversing the decline of Western brown kiwi population for Aotearoa."

This series of releases to Tongariro is the first of what is expected to become several large-scale releases from Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari every year into perpetuity, thanks in part to Save the Kiwi's Kōhanga Kiwi repopulation strategy. Over the last five years, kiwi eggs have been collected from the wild and incubated in a purpose-built incubation facility, the Crombie Lockwood Kiwi Burrow in Wairakei. Chicks have been released into Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari when they are approximately one month old.

Maungatautari is surrounded by a predator-proof perimeter fence, creating the ideal habitat for kiwi to live and breed safely. The kiwi population on the maunga is now doing so well that progeny birds of the founder population can be gifted to other sites in the western region, to bolster existing kiwi populations or create new ones.

Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari manager Bodie Taylor said the exponential growth of the kiwi population on the maunga is testament to collaboration and hard work between

Gutbuster a ray of sunshine despite 'liquid sunshine'



Thomas Sherrit races his Dad Dean to the finish line in the Raetihi Gutbuster event on Saturday, amongst the odd ray of 'liquid sunshine'. See P12 for details. Photo: Glyn Hubbard.

What's on around Ruapehu

T42	6 May
Ohakune Carrot Carnival	3 June
Ohakune Mardi Gras	24 June

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

T C B

Please email: ads@ruapehubulletin.co.nz or call 06 385 8532 or if you have something to add to this column.

Eating out in the Ruapehu District

CYPRUS TREE

79 Clyde St, Ohakune Ph: 06 385 8657
Check out our new menu. Kiwi craft beers, boutique wines and cocktails to quench that thirst. Playroom for the kids, fozzball, air hockey and spacies to keep the kids entertained. Spectacular mountain views. A great place for casual get togethers or special occasions. Open everyday except Wednesdays from 5pm.

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. Wednesday – Friday from 4pm and Saturday and Sunday from 2pm.

POWDERKEG

Bottom of the mountain road Ph: 06 385 8888
The iconic Powderkeg – with a great craft beer and wine 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 in the Matterhorn, Monday to Friday 7am – 10am and 7am – 10.30am Saturday & Sunday. The Powderkeg is open everyday, from 4pm – late on weekdays and 3pm – late on weekends.

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[f](#) Debbie Ngarewa-Packer MP



māori

Authorised by Debbie Ngarewa - Packer, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

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Concrete is pumped for the new abutments for the replacement rail overbridge in Ohakune.

Henare visits new Pōkākā Ecosanctuary

Uenuku welcomed Tourism Minister Hon Peeni Henare to Raetihi Marae earlier this month, when he sought to learn about some of the new projects, including the iwi's Pōkākā Ecosanctuary, which aims to enhance the region as a tourist destination and provide career pathways for rangatahi.

Uenuku chairman Aiden Gilbert explained to Mr Henare about Pōkākā and its hopes and aspirations, following which they visited the Ecosanctuary site. Mr Gilbert was able to speak with the Minister about the Trust's planned cultural event centre, which will house the stories of our past and highlight our journey to the present.

"This Centre is a way to connect us with the wider community," he said.

Mr Gilbert was pleased that soon the Crown would return Pōkākā related redress to Uenuku, Tamakana and Tamahaki, pending the Ratification of our Deed of Settlement.

The Deed of Settlement recognises the significance of the area known as Pōkākā within the Ngatokoerua (Erua) Conservation block used by the Tūpuna to connect and gather kai long ago by Te Korowai o Wainuiārua tupuna "because of the sheer abundance of kaka and other bird life that once were in abundance there".

Pōkākā-related redress to support the Trust's vision will include a joint strategic advisory

committee, co-management agreement, Pōkākā ecosanctuary vision statement, a chapter in the Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Management Strategy, land and Cultural Revitalisation Funds.

"Pōkākā will be the site of our cultural and ecotourism attraction, the first predator-proof, iwi-led ecosanctuary in New Zealand, incorporating a visitor centre and café and offering wildlife tours and guided cultural walks," said Mr Gilbert.

"It will also be a centre of excellence for mātauranga Māori inspired education. As an adjunct to Pōkākā, a nursery will be established to provide native plantings for the ecosanctuary and surrounding lands in the wider area.

"When the land is returned, it will not be in the condition it was when ceded. The Ecosanctuary will work to restore the land to its previous condition through protection, pest management and the reintroduction of native flora and fauna," he said.

"Pōkākā will provide sustainable employment and training opportunities, particularly for our rangatahi."

Minister Henare said he was excited to see how the Ecosanctuary could provide career pathways for young Māori.

The Minister's visit to Raetihi Marae was timely, soon after launching a new district-wide Destination Management Plan on 27 March.



Tourism Minister Peeni Henare, at centre, was greeted onto Raetihi Marae before his visit to the Pōkākā Ecosanctuary site recently.

Kiwis asked to help buy ski fields

From Page 1

They also want to see a revised constitution and structure put in place and new directors appointed to the board to better represent the key stakeholders including Ruapehu District Council, local businesses, Iwi, clubs, Department of Conservation and mountain users. This would help ensure transparency and good governance, claims RSSA.

"Surveys tell us the community has a strong preference to retain both ski fields as community owned operations. The vision for the RSSA is to have the operations owned by the community

and mana whenua. Ruapehu is part of Tongariro National Park; together we can ensure its facilities stay in public hands just as Kiwis did with Awaroa Inlet in the Abel Tasman National Park."

The first stage of the efforts to save the Maunga is the formation of RSSA to represent the interests of all mountain users. This will be followed by the launch of a nationwide crowdfunding campaign.

Interested stakeholders can join the RSSA and help save the Maunga: <https://www.savemtrua-ruapehu.org.nz/join>

Bridge work progressing

The Ohakune Ruapehu Road Rail Overbridge construction is progressing well, reports the Ruapehu District Council, with Emmetts having now established a second crane on the northern side of the bridge.

The two cranes will be working on both sides of the bridge and people are asked to continue to respect the traffic management system in place.

There may be delays when travelling to Soldiers Rd from Railway Row, advises RDC.

Ohakune resident John Archer followed the process of transporting one of the cranes underneath the

rail bridge at the bottom of the Ohakune Mountain Road, taking photos of the "whole slow passage under the two bridges".

He said Emmett's 250-tonne crane was coaxed under the Ohakune railway bridge on Friday afternoon, very slowly, with just 2-3 centimetres to spare.

After getting its tracks refitted at Soldiers Road, it will be used to lift the old overbridge from over the NIMT, and later drop a new bridge in place, just above the NIMT's high-tension live wires.



It was a very tight squeeze to get the large crane under the railway bridge at the Ohakune Junction on Friday. John Archer's other photos can be found at tinyurl.com/tight-squeeze.



Ohakune 57D Arawa Street

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This stunning brand new build is the perfect place to call home. Featuring three spacious bedrooms and one beautifully appointed bathroom, this modern home is designed to impress.

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Waimarino graduates



Pictured are recent University of Canterbury Graduates, Maddison Entwisle, at left, and Charlotte Robb. Maddison Entwisle graduated with a Bachelor of Communications majoring in strategic communication and Charlotte Robb graduated with a Bachelor of Science majoring in Biochemistry. Both girls attended Ohakune Primary School. Maddison attended Fielding Agricultural High School and Charlotte attended Whanganui Collegiate School. Maddison is working as a media co-ordinator at The Media Department in Christchurch and planning to continue in the media communications industry. Charlotte is planning to do her masters in biomedical science in 2024, or a graduate programme in Australia through Mecca where she is currently working this year.

DOC announces price hikes for huts

The Department of Conservation is increasing accommodation prices for huts, lodges, some campsites and some Great Walk huts.

The new prices will be applied for the 2023/24 booking year, from 1 July 2023.

Cat Wilson, DOC's director of heritage and visitors, says some recreation facility prices haven't changed in 15 years and "don't reflect present day costs".

"DOC is operating under increased budget pressures from rising construction and maintenance costs, reduced revenue due to the impacts of Covid-19, and extreme weather events such as Cyclone Gabrielle.

"Visitor charges contribute to recovering the costs of providing DOC's recreation accommodation, and balances the cost burden between users and taxpayers," she says.

"The fees collected help support investment into recreation facilities to maintain, repair and improve experiences at huts, and campsites, lodges, cottages, and cabins."

Standard hut fees will increase from \$5 to \$10 and serviced hut fees will move from \$15 to \$25. This is the first adjustment to hut category fees since 2008.

"DOC provides a wide range of experiences to help people connect with the most scenic places in New Zealand. There are choices for all budgets including many free options.

"Short walks, day hikes, multi-day walks, overnight stays, Great Walks – paddling, hiking, biking – the variety of landscapes in such a small country is phenomenal."

Most Great Walks bookings open for 2023/24 between 20 April and 16 May and non-Great Walk hut, campsite and sole occupancy bookings open in early May.

Cyclone Gabrielle has disrupted facilities in locations such as Hawke's Bay and Coromandel. The extent of damage and costs are still being assessed, and some places are closed until further notice. People need to check the DOC website for alerts before they go.

Some Great Walks including The Tongariro Northern Circuit and Whanganui Journey will increase their off-season hut pricing from \$15 per adult to \$25 per adult. This aligns the off-season Great Walks hut prices with the new serviced hut category prices.

Letters

Rangataua's heroic knitter

• This Anzac Day, let us also remember Mrs Harriet Gardner of Rangataua, who knitted and donated hundreds of pairs of woollen socks for our soldiers during World War One.

The feet of our Kiwi soldiers in cold, wet and unsanitary trenches became cold and damp, and the skin on the men's feet began to peel and then become infected. In those days, before antibiotics, severe cases of infection led to amputation or death. Our soldiers avoided this "Trench Foot" by keeping their feet clean and dry: they oiled their boots, washed their feet, and put on clean, dry, thick woollen socks as often as possible. By 1918, twenty older soldiers in the NZ Brigade's laundry unit behind the lines were tub-washing and line-drying 4000 pairs of socks each day.

Back in New Zealand, women were already doing the absent men's work of cutting firewood and growing vegetables, as well as cooking and caring for their children; but somehow they managed to find time to spin wool into yarn and knit more socks.

Mrs Gardner was a widow in her 70s living with her daughter's family in Rangataua, and she spent all day knitting socks. She knitted about six pairs of socks every month, sometimes starting to knit by candle-light at 4am, with the sock completed by bedtime. By the end of the war, she had knitted more than 300 pairs of socks for soldiers.

All up, about a quarter of a million pairs of socks, as well as vests, scarves, balaclavas, scarves and rugs, were knitted, collected, packed and sent to Kiwi soldiers during WW1.

In WW2, NZ women and school children knitted and donated more than a million wool garments, with the most expert knitters tasked with turning out woollen gloves for our airmen. (Source, 'The Loving Stitch' by Heather Nicholson, 1998)

John Archer, Ohakune

Cyclone thanks

• I wanted to gratefully acknowledge the generosity of many Ohakune businesses and citizens who generously gave food and resources after the Hawkes Bay floods of 13-14 February.

One young man (Callum) delivered a ute load to our home for distribution to our road (Whirinaki Road). Bags of carrots, tinned food, first aid and safety kits were all useful and gratefully received. Thank you to the people who donated food, resources and to Callum for driving them over.

Most in this road are on their feet again and getting on with life. It will take many years before all sites are rehabilitated in nearby Esk Valley with a wait to see if this floodplain is "red zoned" or not.

We will remember your generosity to complete strangers and earnestly hope that no natural environment disasters befall any of you!

Paul N Baker

Neighbourhood Support Coordinator, Whirinaki Road, RD 2, Napier

Kiwi back

From Page 2

multiple parties.

"Kiwi conservation is not a standalone kaupapa," Mr Taylor said.

"Successfully bringing a threatened species back from the brink requires a huge amount of collaboration to build a shared vision. Together with Ngāti Koroki Kahukura and Save the Kiwi we're proud that a thriving population of kiwi call the maunga their home. It's a huge privilege knowing that the mahi going on here will directly contribute to more kiwi populations growing elsewhere."

Save the Kiwi executive director Michelle Impey said the success of Kōhanga Kiwi comes down to strong relationships with iwi, Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari, and the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai; passionate community groups; the significant mahi completed onsite; and a colossal dream that grew out of a simple question.

"It's funny looking back on it now, but we can actually attribute the origin of this idea to Sir John Key," said Ms Impey.

"When he was prime minister in 2016, Sir John Key attended a kiwi release. When he heard that the kiwi population was declining by 2% annually, he asked, 'What needs to be done to turn that decline into an increase?'"

At that time, the kiwi was locally extinct in many parts of Aotearoa, where only a hundred years earlier their calls had been a firm fixture of the night. Communities were asking what they could do to return kiwi to their backyards.

"If we wanted to reverse the decline, and with relatively modest funds, we needed to do something different – and fast. To be successful, we couldn't do more of the same. And so Kōhanga Kiwi was born."

Impey said the true value of Kōhanga Kiwi is its ability to essentially grow kiwi in perpetuity while allowing the species to grow naturally in a wild setting. The programme ensures that the work being done by others to create safe habitat for kiwi is maximised. It is a cost-effective way to boost the kiwi population compared with other more hands-on methods like Operation Nest Egg.

"While birds are removed from the maunga, the founder population along with their offspring will continue to breed," said Impey. "This means there will always be a ready-made kiwi population that can be gifted to other parts of the western region that have implemented stringent predator control. This allows us to greatly accelerate the growth of kiwi to abundance."

"Two kiwi living on 1000 hectares of land would take forever to breed and grow into a sizeable and sustainable population. Being able to gift large numbers of kiwi at once means that locally extinct populations can be almost instantly restored. The effort to protect those 1000 hectares for two kiwi is the same if there were hundreds, so why not ensure there are hundreds?"

The kiwi population on Tongariro National Park is managed in part by the Department of Conservation. Habitat is maintained and kept safe by extensive trapping on the ground and three-yearly toxin drops.

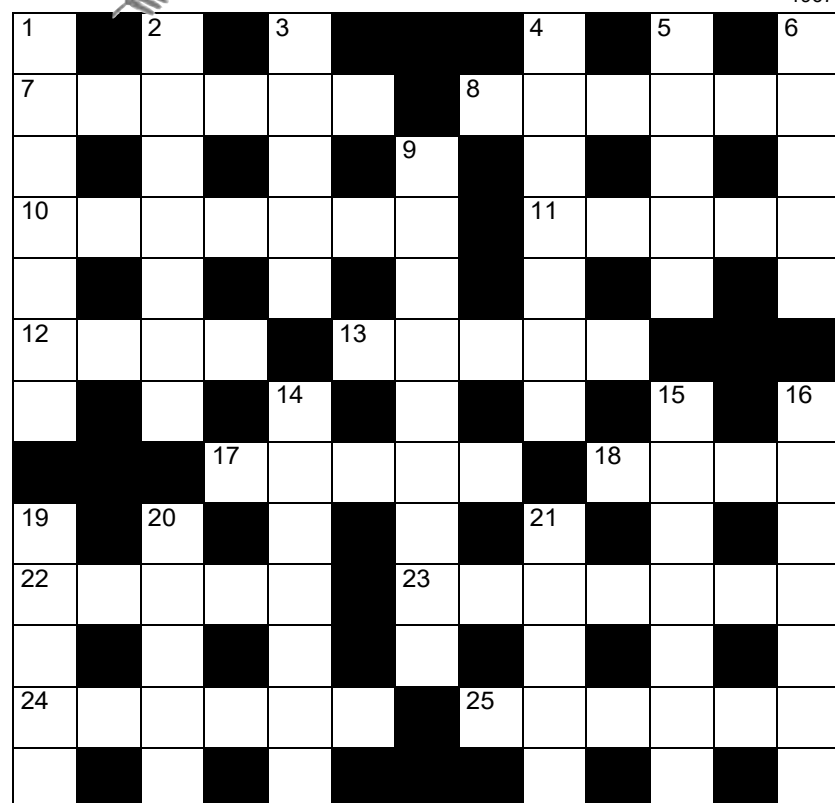
While this release from Maungatautari to Tongariro signals a great result for western brown kiwi, kiwi in the east still need a lot of help. Eastern brown kiwi are the least managed and fastest declining of the North Island's four regional kiwi populations.

"We joke about the job not being done until kiwi are a pest, but for us to reverse the decline all over New Zealand that really is the result we're looking for," said Impey.

"Aotearoa used to be home to millions of kiwi and now there are around 68,000. A lot of work needs to be done before kiwi are in the millions again, but we have confidence that one day soon the national kiwi population will shift from a decline into growth mode."

THE CROSSWORD

1967



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Across

7. Flu or cold (colloq) (3,3)
8. Native tree with yellow flowers (6)
10. Town originally known as Kororāreka (7)
11. Foolish person (inf) (5)
12. Entice (4)
13. Athlete whose life story is covered in the film *More Than Gold* (5)
17. South Island pass (5)
18. A car for hire (4)
22. Bright blue (5)
23. Late (7)
24. South Island braided river (6)
25. Popular 'Border' worker on New Zealand farms (6)

Down

1. Surprise (7)
2. Pavlova is a popular one in NZ (7)
3. Great Barrier Island (5)
4. The South Island: Te Wai _____ (7)
5. Polished (5)
6. Another name for an LP (5)
9. The rugby cup New Zealand and Australia vie for each year (9)
14. Wellington's rugby stadium (colloq) (4,3)
15. A common pest at New Zealand beaches and rivers (7)
16. New Zealand's little pancake (7)
19. Popular writer and controversial Kiwi character, ___ Crump (5)
20. Sound in Fiordland National Park (5)
21. Realistic lure used by duckshooters (5)

Previous solution

Across: 1. Waipoua, 4. Octet, 7. Rima, 8. Seafarer, 10. Half-truths, 12. Petone, 13. Chance, 15. Eastbourne, 18. Stickler, 19. Knot, 20. Layer, 21. Surreal.
Down: 1. Worth, 2. Immolate, 3. Avenue, 4. Off the hook, 5. Turn, 6. Turbine, 9. Stan Walker, 11. Entrance, 12. Parasol, 14. Stress, 16. Extol, 17. Pity.

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Maru winter pyjama appeal on again

As winter approaches Maru Energy Trust is again calling for support to provide new pyjamas to local families in need.

Kahumoe Kaupapa – The PJ Project was launched by the charitable trust in 2022 with close to 500 pairs of adults and children’s winter pyjamas distributed in local communities throughout The Lines Company’s (TLC) network region.

Maru manager Jo Meads said last year’s appeal was a great success and she is hoping to double the number of pyjamas gifted this winter.

“We had wonderful feedback from the community organisations who distributed pyjamas and from the families they work with who were very grateful for the support.

“The cost of living has risen sharply and is having a substantial impact on many families, so this is one way we can help.”

Maru was established by TLC in 2018 and is a third-party funder helping to provide home insulation and heating to vulnerable homeowners within their network area.

“This project is an extension of the work Maru does in our local communities and aligns with our core values of supporting people to keep warm and healthy at home,” said Meads.

To hit its goal of buying 1000 pairs of winter pyjamas for babies through to adults, Maru is reaching out to local resi-

dents and businesses through social media, local media and by word of mouth to gain their support.

“Anyone can donate online or drop pyjamas into Maru’s community collection points. Details are on Maru’s Facebook page and website or get hold of me directly.

“Last year we received quite a lot of pyjamas through the collection points which was great,” said Meads.

The appeal closes on July 31. Donations can be made via: Internet banking into Maru Energy Trust’s account 03-0449-0011383-000 Reference PJ Project; or new pyjamas can be dropped at the following collection points: Ōtorohanga – Ōtorohanga Support House Whare Awhina; Te Kūiti – The Lines Company, Te Kūiti Community House, Maniapoto Whānau Ora Centre; Taumarunui – Community Kokiri Trust; Mangakino – Mangakino Health Centre; Ohakune – New World Supermarket.

Pyjamas will be distributed via organisations Maru works with including Te Kūiti Community House, Maniapoto Marae Pact Trust, Maniapoto Whānau Ora Centre (Te Kūiti), Ōtorohanga Support House, Mangakino Health Services, Kokiri Trust (Taumarunui), Ngā Waihua o Paerangi Trust (Ohakune) and Waitomo Waipā Women’s Refuge.



Maru Energy Trust manager Jo Meads. Photo: Maru Energy Trust.

Ruapehu back in the rugby premiers

By Jared Smith, Whanganui Rugby (abridged)

Ruapehu is back in the Tasman Tanning Premier Rugby competition this year, after missing the 2022 season due to a shortage of experienced players.

The Premiers comp’s gain is the Seniors’ loss, with Ruapehu dropping that division to concentrate on the Premiers.

It is a five-team competition, as it was last season except McCarthy’s Transport Ruapehu steps forward to replace the departed Settler’s Honey Ngamatapouri, no one wants the ignominy of being the only squad to miss the semifinals.

But that is exactly how Dave Hoskin Carriers Marist felt last July when, despite a comfortable win in their last match against third-place Ngamatapouri, walking off happy to have done their job, they discovered to their horror that Wanganui Car Centre Kaierau had pulled off the upset of the season over undefeated Byford’s Readimix Taihape – snatching fourth spot away.

The restart for Ruapehu has to wait a week, however, with McCarthy’s Transport Ruapehu having the bye first up last Saturday.



Flu

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RAL pleads guilty over bus crash that killed Hannah Francis

By Natalie Akoorlie, Open Justice journalist of NZ Herald (abridged)

Ruapehu Alpine Lifts has pleaded guilty to charges it faced over a bus crash that killed an 11-year-old schoolgirl on Mt Ruapehu almost five years ago.

RAL was operating the shuttle bus that crashed on Ohakune Mountain Road in July 2018, fatally injuring Auckland girl Hannah Francis and injuring some of the 30 others on board.

RAL, which went into voluntary administration last year, had attempted to stall the prosecution against it until liquidators could report back in May on its financial situation.

The company, which operates North Island ski fields Tūroa and Whakapapa on Mt Ruapehu, is \$40 million in debt.

However, in the Taihape District Court last week, RAL pleaded guilty to two charges brought by WorkSafe under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.

No charges were laid by police or WorkSafe at the time of crash, but a coroner's inquest in 2021 found the bus brakes used an air-over-hydraulic brake system that was old technology and the driver made critical errors that led to the brakes failing.

Coroner Brigitte Windley's findings restarted the limitations for WorkSafe to lay charges after the original timeframe for doing so had lapsed.

Failing to ensure safety

RAL was charged with failing to ensure the safety of passengers on the Mitsubishi Fuso bus that day and exposing Hannah and other passengers to risk of death or serious injury.

It was also charged with failing to ensure the safety of its workers and exposing them to the same risks on the buses it used to transport skiers up and down the mountain road. The charges carry a maximum penalty of \$1.5 million.

The charges were laid against RAL in May last year, and a judge entered a not guilty plea on behalf of RAL in August because of continued adjournment requests.

In February, Hannah's parents Matt Francis and Michelle Bruton told the Herald in a statement on behalf of their families that the delays in the case had been upsetting.

"... the delays and continual requests for continuance by RAL are making an already difficult situation even more difficult for us

all and adding to our trauma," they said.

"There are also a number of other victims from this accident that are affected by these delays.

"Although we appreciate the current situation for RAL, we hope that this matter can be brought to conclusion as soon as possible to allow us to move forward with our lives."

In her findings, Coroner Brigitte Windley called for passenger seatbelts on buses and emergency run-off lanes to be investigated after Hannah's death.

Critical mistakes

She found the bus driver made two critical mistakes leading to the crash.

Terry Choi was driving the 1994 Mitsubishi Fuso with an unforgiving braking system reliant on extremely careful driving, Coroner Windley said.

An examination of the bus found no mechanical faults that caused the brakes to fail.

The way Choi, a father himself who was so remorseful he did not seek name suppression, drove the bus was the main cause of the brake failure and crash, Coronary Windley said.

"Mr Choi had made two critical mistakes."

He used third gear when driving down the steep upper reaches of Ohakune Mountain Road with a fully loaded bus.

Coroner Windley said that put the brakes at risk of irrecoverable failure.

"Mr Choi's second critical mistake was in failing to change down from third gear to second gear, as he said he usually did, before the hairpins."

Old technology

She also found the bus had an air-over-hydraulic brake system considered old technology by today's standards.

"Brake fade can set in rapidly, and where overheating occurs to the point of failure, there is little, if anything, the driver can do to rapidly recover braking function."

In September, WorkSafe dropped a charge of failing to ensure the health and safety of road users was not put at risk from its work against Vehicle Testing New Zealand.

RAL will be sentenced in August at Waitākere District Court.

This story originally appeared in the New Zealand Herald.

Horizons community grants applications closing soon



A week-long camp for rangatahi focussed on regenerative kai systems was one of the projects supported by Horizons Regional Council last year.

Horizons Regional Council encourages community groups with eligible projects to apply for grants before the funding round closes on Friday 5 May.

Horizons holds funding rounds for the Kanorau Koiroa Taketake – Indigenous Biodiversity Community Grant and the Pūtea Hapori Urupare Āhuarangi – Community Climate Response Fund each year.

The grants are open to community groups with projects seeking to reconnect with and enhance indigenous biodiversity or which address climate change issues in the region.

Horizons councillor Fiona Gordon, who sits on the committee that awards the grants, says the funding is a great opportunity for community groups.

"So many wonderfully innovative, community-led projects come to fruition with the support of these community grants year after year, so we encourage groups to apply.

"Whether you have applied before or have a project in its infancy needing a kickstart, we have funding available. If you're not sure whether your project fits the criteria for a grant, get in touch with our team to see if we can help.

"It is truly inspiring to see what our communities can achieve when they come together with an idea - that's what these grants are here for," says Cr Gordon.

Waitahora Landcare Trust are a group of landowners who wish to control the spread of the invasive Old Man's Beard in particularly vulnerable areas in their community: along the Mangatoro river and surrounding native bush.

In 2022, the group was awarded \$18,900 from the Kanorau Koiroa Taketake to fund their efforts, including

paying for contractors to target problem areas and supplies to continue control efforts themselves in the future.

For 2023, the funding pool available for Kanorau Koiroa Taketake is \$277,000.

In February this year a climate camp for seventeen rangatahi was held, supported by \$11,700 of funding from the Pūtea Hapori Urupare Āhuarangi. Funds paid for educators to speak with rangatahi as well as providing fresh healthy kai for the week.

The camp project focused on providing rangatahi with skills and knowledge of regenerative kai systems, mātauranga Māori, and holistic wellbeing. Teens left the week-long camp with a stronger sense of connection to self and their whanau and their natural environment.

For 2023, the funding pool available for the Pūtea Hapori Urupare Āhuarangi – Community Climate Response Fund is \$78,250.

Eligible projects must be not-for-profit, be taking place within the Horizons Region, and preferably group members should also reside within the region. Preference is given to projects which do not apply for a large portion of the total funding pool.

Applications for both grants close Friday 5 May, 1pm. No late applications will be accepted.

To read about other projects funded by community grants, visit Horizons' Facebook or other social media pages.

To view the full eligibility criteria and find application forms, visit <https://www.horizons.govt.nz/grants-and-sponsorship>

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Pikimai Ouknider – new principal at Te Kura.

New tumuaki for Te Kura

Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngāti Rangī will soon have a new tumuaki (principal), Pikimai Ouknider.

Pikimai, who has a Bachelor of Teaching (Māori Medium) from Te Wānanga o Raukawa; first began her teaching career over two decades ago, as a teacher aide and relief teacher at the kura from 2000-2001.

Since that time her career has taken her across the educational spectrum, including as a kai āwhina at Manu Kōrero Te Kōhanga Reo (Ohakune) and a te reo Māori teacher at Timaru Girls High School and Ruapehu College.

“Pikimai has been raised in the Māramatanga; is competent in her knowledge of Ngāti Rangitanga; fluent in te reo rangatira, and confident in her application

of tikanga, kawa, and kōrero tuku iho,” said presiding member of the board, Elijah Pue.

“We are delighted that our tamariki are going to be taught by one of their own. Pikimai brings with her excellent leadership skills and an impressive grasp of the educational framework that drives the kura, Te Aho Matua,” said Mr Pue.

“She is an inspirational ambassador for her marae, whānau, hapu and iwi. Her communication styles are exemplary; her love of education is self-evident and her commitment to our taura (students) and kaiako (staff) will be invaluable in shaping the future direction of our kura”.

Pikimai Ouknider will be officially welcomed into her new role as Tumuaki on Monday 29 May.

Ohakune Squash success

Results from last week’s inter-business finals night between pool A and pool B are: for 13th/14th PGG Wrightson beat Thrown Together 4/1, for 11th/12th Riley’s Rockstars beat SBPainting 3/2, for 9th/10th Rock Girls beat Rock Boys 3/2, for 7th/8th Parked Up beat AEIOU 4/1, for 5th/6th Ontrack beat Nameless 3/2, for 3rd/4th Bulky Pulpies beat Bolt 5/0 and in the main final for 1st/2nd Fenzoha57 beat Luck of the Draw 3/2.

The first round of matches in the Ruapehu zone interclub competition started last Tuesday. Taihape Two travelled to Taumarunui and won 3/1, Ruapehu College hosted Turangi and won 3/1 whilst Ohakune hosted Taihape One and lost 4/0. Matches for next Tuesday has Turangi hosting Taumarunui whilst Taihape One hosts Ruapehu College and Taihape Two hosts Ohakune. All matches start at 6:30pm.

Over the weekend several Ohakune juniors travelled to Taihape for a Central Prince series junior tournament. Best

results came from Paige Drinkwater winning the second division, Will Barlow narrowly beating brother Sam in the division three final and Elise Drinkwater beating Casey Shields in the division four final.

Also over the weekend, playing in the River City senior tournament Grace Burnard won the women’s open division whilst Kirsty Osborne was runner up in the women’s fourth division.

This Thursday club night sees the annual Waimarino/Ohakune club challenge being held at Ohakune. A mix of all ability players will take part. Always a good close battle.

The following week a club members inter-house competition starts.

Also starting this week on Wednesday afternoons are the term two junior coaching groups. Around 60 have registered.



Young squash winners, from left, Sam Barlow, Casey Shields, Elise Drinkwater, Will Barlow and Paige Drinkwater.

Rural Women business awards entries open

Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) and Premier Partner NZI announce that entries are now open for this year’s NZI Rural Women NZ Business Awards.

“The Awards are one of the highlights on our annual calendar of events and we are expecting this year to be no exception,” says national president Gill Naylor.

“Despite the challenges of the last few years, the number of entrants in the Awards has in-

creased every year, as has the diversity of the enterprises represented in their entries.

“This is an excellent indicator of the incredibly dynamic role that entrepreneurial rural women play in building sustainable and resilient rural communities and economies.

“These Awards provide a fantastic opportunity for women who own and operate rural enterprises to showcase their creativity and innovation and for us to celebrate and promote their

achievements.

“The Awards night itself is always a great celebration and reminder that rural women continue to be a formidable force in ensuring our rural communities remain resilient, prosperous and ready for whatever the future brings, and that’s something we are always very proud to be a part of,” says NZI’s executive manager agencies and schemes, Christina Chellew.

“Each year, we get feedback from the entrants

on how much they learn about themselves and their businesses by taking part in these Awards so if you are a rural businesswoman, enter, or if you know a rural businesswoman who should be recognised for her achievements, encourage her to enter,” says Mrs Naylor.

Entries close on Friday, 28 July at 5pm. For more information and details on how to enter visit: <https://ruralwomennz.nz/nzi-rural-women-nz-business-awards-2023/>



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Ruapehu District Council Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ruapehu Boards and Committees UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Risk & Assurance Committee
11:00am, Friday 19 May 2023
Online

MEETING CONTACTS

Ruapehu District Council	07 895 8188
Taumarunui-Ōhura Community Board	
Luke Pepper, Chairperson	027 329 2849
Ōwhango-National Park Community Board	
Anthony Gurr, Chairperson	021 487 742
Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board	
John (Luigi) Hotter, Chairperson	027 274 2616
Risk & Assurance Committee	
Philip Jones, Chairperson	027 499 9408

Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand

Waimarino X-ray Department Temporary Closure

The x-ray department at the Waimarino Health Centre will be closed between the 21 April and 12 June due to refurbishment.

As part of the Te Whatu Ora Whanganui Radiology department's improvement and replacement project, the Waimarino x-ray department will be having a refit and a new digital x-ray unit installed. The new x-ray machine will enable us to produce better quality images, faster while using less radiation than the old units.

During these refurbishments the following alternative x-ray facilities will be available:

**Whanganui Hospital – Monday to Friday
Taihape Medical Centre – Tuesday & Thursday**

Appointments are required at both centres, either let your referring physician know where you want to go and they can send your referral to them or pop into the Waimarino Health Centre and the reception staff will be able to assist you. You will then be contacted with an appointment at your chosen place.

Petrol vouchers will be available to those that need them.

We apologise for the inconvenience this may cause and hope you join us in celebrating when the new improved area is completed.

PUBLIC NOTICES

MEETINGS

The following meetings of Horizons Regional Council will be held during May 2023 in the Tararua Room, Regional House, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North, unless otherwise advised:

Wednesday, 10 May

9.30am Integrated Catchment Committee

Tuesday, 30 May

9.30am Regional Council (Livestreamed)

An Extraordinary Council Meeting to discuss the impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle on river and drainage infrastructure was held on 5 April 2023.

Should Members of the public wish to speak at Meetings, they are advised to phone 0508 800 800.

M J McCartney
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



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WHANGANUI RIVER ENHANCEMENT TRUST 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 Street, Taumarunui - 07 895 8188.

Applications close 6th May 2023

For further information contact:

Nicole Tawhiri
Genesis Energy Phone 07 984 1151
Nicole.Tawhiri@genesisenergy.co.nz

Application forms to be forwarded to:
Whanganui River Enhancement Trust
c/- Nicole Tawhiri
Genesis Energy
Private Bag 36 Turangi

PUBLIC NOTICES



Waimarino Community Toy Library

Whilst the old building is undergoing a much needed makeover, the existing toys have been relocated to 45 Clyde Street, Ohakune.

If you have toys which were borrowed and not returned at the closing of the old premise, please drop them off to The Bulletin office.

Donations of good quality toys including role play, puzzles, outdoor and baby would be much appreciated as we are hoping to revive the Toy Library in this new location.

Any questions, please contact
Jude 0274 993 697.

SITUATIONS VACANT



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Gutbuster a ray of sunshine despite 'liquid sunshine'

After a two-year hiatus due to Covid, and a new team behind the scenes, close to 150 locals and visitors ran, walked and rode achieving their goals as part of this iconic local event organised by Raetihi Promotions Charitable Trust.

Event director Cathy Rogers was ecstatic with the turnout given the drizzly conditions, but the smiles on participants faces brought a ray of sunshine to everyone.

"This really was a true community event – Orautoha School had 20 children entered plus at least 12 parents, including a four year old with her Dad. All the children made it round and many were the first ones across the line.

"On top of that they provided six of the on-course marshals and undertook school fundraising with a very popular hangi (which was a sell-out). Impressive from a School with a roll of 46 students.

The Waimarino Museum committee provided sandwiches, cakes and a baggage storage service and a welcoming presence on the Museum veranda, opening the eyes of many to their presence and the special slice of historical access they offer.

Local roading and infrastructure team, Inframax including Jay, Wiremu, Louise and Renata provided the traffic management service for the event, ensuring that everyone had a safe and well visible event course.

"The team had a fantastic day and

have said they're keen to be back next year with their smiles and friendly waves to keep everyone motivated – so much more fun being able to chat to real people!"

The traditional Gutbuster cycle leg was challenging in the conditions, but a warm welcome in Pipiriki from the local team led by Teresa Hohepa made the climb back up the hill significantly more motivating.

The new half marathon event proved a solid Gutbuster up Waipuna hill, with many needing the extra motivation provide by Rabbit Notage, Donna Journeaux and others at the turn.

The new 5km run/walk was a huge success – massively exceeding expectations and enjoyed by everyone enroute.

The course was lined with locals who came to their gates to cheer on the athletes, all supported by the local marshals including the ones manning aid stations.

It was the kids who stole the winners tape, leaving many of the adults in their dust – and setting down a challenge for next year. For most, winning was making new friends and sharing the camaraderie of getting out and moving with friends and whanau on the day.

There were a few challenges on the day including some issues with the timing system – but most were happy to achieve together with their friends and whanau. Ruapehu's

mayor Weston Kirton was at the finish line to congratulate the winners and share some Ruapehu 'sunshine'.

Winners on the day included: Half-marathon, 1st female Rain Milne, male Gen Lin Foo. 25km cycle 1st female Vanessa Roylance, 1st male William Barlow. 50km cycle 1st female Georgia Taylor, 1st male Elijah May. 50km E-bike 1st Shone Garvin. 5km Run/Walk, Youth 1st female Kayleigh-Rose Williams, 1st male Logan Running. 5km Run/Walk Adult 1st female Vanessa Young, 1st male Dave Gray.

The organisers thank the team of volunteers including Tania Windle, Orla Drylie, Shey MacLean, Lynley Twyman as well as on the day – Caron Purchase and Helen Cussins. In addition on the day 26 locals supported as marshals, water station attendants, 'setter uppers' and 'packer uppers', along with the Rural Fire Brigade team.

In addition local businesses in Raetihi, Ohakune and Whanganui, providing services, spot prizes and vege packs for participants and general support.

"I thought that the local support and involvement was fantastic, despite a drizzly day. This was so encouraging for all of us and gives a great foundation upon which to build the event. Already there are some new options being discussed," said Cathy Rogers.

Next year's event will be on 27 April.



ABOVE: And they're off on the Raetihi Gutbuster. Top right, half-marathon winner Gen Lin Foo. Bottom right, Dan Wheeler and Gerry Le Roux at the turn. Photos: Glyn Hubbard and Donna Journeaux.

stronger together...

NZR Central have recently broken the tradition of real estate in the area by deciding to join as a team.

The philosophy behind this is that by sharing all listings and commissions equally and working collaboratively, every NZR customer and client has the benefit of knowing that they have the entire sales team working as one on their behalf to ensure a positive and successful outcome is achieved.

Combining our individual experience, knowledge and skill set as well as true open communication between each member of the team, gives us that extra edge over other agencies and gives our clients and customers the certainty that nothing else stands in our way of ensuring they are provided with the best experience that they deserve.

With already proven sales success we pride ourselves on our honesty and integrity which is evidenced by the testimonials received.

We would love for you to join us and see what we can all achieve together!

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