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28 June 2023
Issue No 1967



New classes at Ohakune P2



Illegal logging angers DOC P3



PNG soldier trains officers P5



Tribes back $30m deal P7

# Skiing's on for 2023

The Government will provide up to $5 million to the liquidators of Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL) to ensure the mountain's 2023 ski season can go ahead, Regional Development Minister Kiri Allan announced on Monday.

She also announced that another expression of interest in purchasing the ski areas, from Ngāti Tūwharetoa.

The funding allows time for liquidators to decide on the purchaser or purchasers of the business and its assets.

The watershed meeting of RAL creditors on Tuesday last week failed to see either of the proposals to take over the business succeed, ending in a stalemate. RAL was put into liquidation by the High Court in Auckland the next day and the government has been working through the next steps.

"We've always been committed to finding a way to ensure the ski season on Mount Ruapehu goes ahead this year. Cabinet's decision today has solidified that," Kiri Allan said.

"Ruapehu is a very significant part of the economy in the central North Island, accounting for around a tenth of regional GDP, or $100 million per year. The season going ahead will save hundreds of jobs and support local tourism, the regional economy and the community, while a long-term solution is found.

"This will provide workers on the mountain with job security and ensure busi-

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## Both fields open Saturday, conditions permitting

Ruapehu Alpine Lifts general manager Jono Dean has confirmed that the company (in Liquidation) are operating the season at both ski areas from 1 July and anticipate being in place for the season.

"We retain largely the same team as per the 2022 operating season," says Dean.

"Both ski fields will operate from 1 July 2023 (conditions and weather pending) and we will strive to provide exceptional experiences for our guests on maximum possible terrain.

"Season passes will be on sale from next week. Life passes will be able to be used at Whakapapa and Tūroa while the ski fields are operated by RAL in liquidation.

"In exchange for this good will to life pass holders, we ask that they bring their mates and support the business financially through spends in retail and food and beverage."

He said day passes and packages will be available for sale from Thursday 29 June 2023.

# Ohakune Mardi Gras bucks the trend




*The spectacular stage at the Ohakune Mountain Mardi Gras was a hit again this year.*

The Ohakune Mountain Mardi Gras bucked the trend on Saturday night, with numbers close to last year's at around 7400 people through the gates.

Mardi Gras means 'Fat Tuesday' in the French Christian calendar and marks the last day before lent, when the faithful fast for 40 days up until Easter.

But in Ohakune it has come to mean a big mountain street party in early winter, with DJ artists from around the world gathering for a night of music and party-goers dressing up in crazy and creative costumes. There were prawns, priests, whoopy cushions, jockeys, 'Where's Wallies' and techno punks, just to name a fraction.

Mitch Lowe, from Audiology who organise the street party, said music festivals around the country have been seeing a downturn, with some seeing a drop of up to 30% in numbers this year, so to match last year was a big relief.

He said it was setting up to be one of the hardest, but

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# Rural communities will lose out with mergers, says Kirton

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporter
moana@awafm.co.nz

Ruapehu's mayor Weston Kirton says an independent review of local government does not address the needs of rural councils.

He says rural communities have different needs from urban and metropolitan areas and will lose out if councils are amalgamated.

The final report of the review into the Future for Local Government last week called for an overhaul of local government and put forward options for new unitary or combined regional authorities.

"They want to merge smaller local authorities into more unitary authority structures," Kirton said.

"Out the door goes your local mayor, out the door go your local councillors. Representation will be reduced or eliminated in some areas."

Review panel chair Jim Palmer said on Tuesday the country's 78 councils could be reshaped using the 15 regional RMA boundaries as a starting point. New representative bodies would be developed on a principle of "self-determination" in each region or district.

A unitary model would amalgamate all councils, including regional councils, in one area, while a combined network authority would retain local councils and mayors but establish an additional combined authority with shared powers and functions for issues concerning the entire area.

Kirton said the report and its 17 recommendations did not protect good representation for smaller communities and had more relevance for urban communities.

"It doesn't fit with the real needs of rural New Zealand. We need to engage with smaller communities better, where a lot of farms are gobbled up by forestry and tree planting for carbon emissions.

"We need to address the needs of communities such as Taumarunui, Raetihi and Ohakune who don't have public transport or passenger train services, or the same access [as urban communities] to health services.

"It doesn't fit with the real needs of rural New Zealand. We need to engage with smaller communities better,

"Roading is a big-ticket item. This area has a lot of unsealed roads – to upgrade or even maintain them is a huge cost to the ratepayer. That's a growing issue."

Kirton said it would be hard to get locals to accept any form of amalgamation.

"There should be an opportunity for small councils. Smaller councils are the councils that sometimes are suited to an area such as ours because you've got a big area to cover and a low population."

Ruapehu District has a population base of about 13,000. Smaller councils such as Ruapehu neighbours Otorohanga, Waitomo and Stratford, with population bases of around 10,000, were testament that big is not necessarily better, Kirton said.

"You only have to look at the super-city of Auckland. It became a super-city regional authority after merging smaller local authorities over 10 years ago. It was going to be a model and a template for the rest of the country. Well, no-one's crying about the success story of Auckland.

"At the time I thought it would be useful to have amalgamation to save overheads and costs and the like, but I'm more inclined now to protect smaller local authorities, particularly in this area, to go it alone but be resourced appropriately to suit the needs of our communities – and those needs could well be different from the metropolitan and urban areas."

The report's main thrust was making wellbeing a core function of local government, Kirton said.

"Social needs and infrastructure – health, housing, schooling, jobs and getting young people off the streets – that appears to be a function that councils will need to get their heads around and deliver on.

"We need to be addressing those sorts of needs but we need surety that we can fund these things."

*Public Interest Journalism funded through NZ On Air*

## What's on around Ruapehu

| | |
|---|---|
| Ohakune Fashion Show | 19 August |
| Waimarino Art Awards | 7-14 October |

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

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

## Eating out in the Ruapehu District

**CYPRUS TREE**
79 Clyde St, Ohakune Ph: 06 385 8857
Check out our new menu. Kiwi craft beers, boutique wines and cocktails to quench that thirst. Playroom for the kids, foozeball, 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. Wedensday – 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.

**THE KITCHEN**
4 Thames St, Ohakune Junction Ph: 06 385 8664
Specialising in affordable and friendly, fresh and tasty modern fare. All your favourites and a full range of vegan, vegetarian and gluten free options. Ohakune's most thoughtful drink list including a great range of NZ craft beer. Eat in or takeaway. Open from 4pm, next to Powderkeg, Ohakune Junction.

**UTOPIA CAFÉ**
47 Clyde St, Ohakune Ph: 06 385 9120
Open 7 days from 7:30am – 3:30pm for all day breakfast and lunch. A cosy memorable atmosphere with a great range of cabinet food and beverages, including regional famous Volcanic coffee, Frappé and smoothies. Vegan/Gluten-free options for both savoury and sweet are available. Speedy free Wi-Fi! A perfect place for everybody!

# New rooms for Ohakune school



***Work is well underway on the foundations for two new classrooms for Ohakune Primary School, due to arrive by truck in early July. The rooms are expected to be ready to use in August and will be occupied by senior classes. This will allow the redevelopment of the existing seniors classrooms to be refurbished. Once they are done, the junior classrooms are also due to be upgraded.***

# Skiing's on for 2023

***From Page 1***

nesses dependent on activities on and around the mountain have the certainty they need for the season ahead.

"The liquidator is able to operate under the existing concessions.

"The Crown has also received a further expression of interest following the watershed meeting, to take over the ski operations on the mountain. This proposal from Te Ariki Tā Tumu Te Heuheu on behalf of Tūwharetoa is in addition to the expressions of interest received from Whakapapa Holdings and Pure Tūroa before the watershed meeting.

"The final decision in relation to the sale is made by the liquidator.

"The Government is now considering the three bids for Government support and I have asked MBIE to engage with the bidders to determine the best outcome for RAL's creditors, the Crown, the local economy and community.

"The government remains committed to ensuring the best possible outcome for the region and many future ski seasons," Kiri Allan said.

**Ruapehu District happy**

Ruapehu mayor Weston Kirton said he warmly welcomes the announcement that the Government will provide up to $5 million to the liquidators of Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL) to ensure the mountain's 2023 ski season can go ahead.

"This decision marks a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to secure the future of skiing on Mt Ruapehu and its contribution to the regional economy," he said.

"With the failure of the watershed meeting of RAL creditors on Tuesday last week to support either the Whakapapa Holdings Limited or Pure Tūroa Limited bids, allowing time for liquidators to decide on the best possible purchaser or purchasers of the business and its assets was the best possible outcome."

He said the news that there is a new proposal from Te Ariki Tā Tumu Te Heuheu on behalf of Tūwharetoa to take over the ski operations on the mountain is welcomed.

"I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Government and Regional Development Minister Kiri Allan for recognizing the crucial role that the Ruapehu ski industry plays in the central North Island's economy.

"This announcement will come as a tremendous relief to the Ruapehu communities with the ski industry contributing approximately one-tenth of the regional GDP, amounting to $100 million per year."

He said the decision to support the 2023 ski season will ensure job security for the workers on the mountain and provide much needed certainty for businesses that rely on the ski industry," he said.

Mr Kirton noted that getting to this point has been an emotional and trying time for everyone involved.

"I want to express my gratitude to the resilient and supportive Mt Ruapehu communities.

"I understand the stress and uncertainty this process has brought upon you.

"Moving forward, I call upon all stakeholders to support the liquidator to choose the best operator or operators who can ensure the long-term success of the Mt Ruapehu ski industry," he said.

**Extreme disappointment**

Minister Allen has said she is not happy with the way the process has been handled by MBIE.

"I have expressed on behalf of my Cabinet colleagues my extreme disappointment with the way this matter has been dealt with. I don't think it has been an appropriate process by MBIE officials working in the region, it needed to be a lot more communicative and collaborative along the way," she told Newshub.

Allan said the bid from Tūwharetoa was disclosed to the voluntary administrator and to MBIE, but she wasn't made aware of it.

"I decided to go up and see for myself whether the right people had been engaged at the right level and they have not been. I am not pleased with the process to date," Allan said.

"You need hapū and iwi on board to manage the transfer of the concessions. I needed to make sure the commercial bids put up would withstand all the various hurdles and I was not convinced they would."

But Allan has revealed a local iwi lined up to bid for the ski fields several months ago but she was never told about it. She has now written to the CEO of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) to express her "extreme disappointment".

"There was an approach by Ngāti Tūwharetoa earlier in the piece when the other bidders were being engaged with, Ngāti Tūwharetoa made its proposal to MBIE and the voluntary administrator directly. I was not aware of that bid and the preliminary advice I have is that that is a very competitive tender."

The Ruapehu Skifields Stakeholders Association has applauded the Government for "doing the right thing and supporting the skifields in difficult circumstances".

"The Stakeholders Association is incredibly pleased that that Government has stepped up to allow the 2023 ski season to go ahead and give certainty to staff, local businesses and community, and at same time allowing more time for a proper process that ensures sufficient community consultation on the decision-making for the long-term future of the skifields.

"We look forward to engaging with all parties in the interests of the best long-term community-owned solution for the ski area operations. Here's to a ripper 2023 season. This is great news and the ski community welcomes it!"

# Illegal tree felling plagues DOC forests

Visitors to the central North Island's protected conservation forests are urged to report suspicious activity after a spate of illegal tree felling incidents.

Department of Conservation principal compliance officer Matt Davis says dozens of trees and shrubs at sites in the Pureora Forest Park and Tongariro Forest Conservation Area have been removed or hacked down.

"It's a breach of the Conservation Act to fell native trees on public conservation land, or remove native plants from those areas.

"No-one has the right to remove or fell native trees in this way.

"We're calling on the public to be our 'eyes and ears' and call 0800 DOC HOT if they see or hear trees being felled, or wood being removed."

DOC staff have discovered up to 30 trees felled near Owhango on the western edge of the Tongariro Forest Conservation Area.

Tī koūka (cabbage), māhoe, horopito, kamahi, puka and other trees have been hacked down and dumped at the site to create a clearing.

In the Pureora Forest incidents, two rimu trees – one estimated to be up to 600 years old – were brutally felled and left at the scene. The trunk of the larger tree, measuring up to 25 metres in height, has been removed from the site by DOC.

Elsewhere in Pureora, near the picturesque and isolated Waihora Lagoon, a 25-metre-tall matai has been felled, along with several smaller trees. These are all close to an unauthorized structure DOC staff have deemed an illegal campsite.

DOC says removal of logs and other plant material reduces the habitat for fungi, invertebrates and other elements of the ecosystem and lessens nutrient recycling within the forest.

Large native trees are also roost sites for colonies of native bats, and song posts for kokakō.

"By felling that single matai tree, these people have destroyed the habitat and homes of other species DOC and iwi and conservation partners work hard to protect," Matt Davis says.

"It will take generations for that tree to be replaced.

"Possible motivations for illegal tree felling include use of the timber for landscaping or firewood, or to create a clearing for hunting. None of these are acceptable," Matt Davis says.

The illegal removal or harvesting of trees or plants from public conservation land can result in a fine of up $100,000 and two years in jail. If the offending continues, further fines of $10,000 a day can be imposed.



***Almost 30 native trees have been illegally felled in the Tongariro Forest Conservation Area, reports DOC. They want the public to be their eyes and ears to help stop this desecration. Photo supplied.***

# Work begins to restore two lanes to SH4

State Highway 4 between Upokongaro and Raetihi will close for essential roadworks next Tuesday, 4 July and Wednesday 5 July.

Closures will take place each day between 8:30am and 4pm to allow contractors to install a temporary culvert at a site north of Hawken Road where the road is down to one lane due to a washout.

A design is now in place for a permanent fix to that section of the road, which will see it widened back to two lanes.

During next week's road closures, a temporary culvert will be installed and shoulder widening, allowing for work to begin restoring two lanes to the road.

Waka Kotahi Manawatū/Whanganui and Taranaki System Manager Rob Service says closing the road for a two day period means work can be done faster and more safely.

"Our contractors will be doing this work next week because data shows there's less traffic through that stretch of road on a Tuesday and a Wednesday. We're also confident the impact on schools and families can be further minimised by working during the school holidays," says Mr Service.

"SH4 is a crucial link for communities between Whanganui and Raetihi and is a major freight connection through the central North Island.

"There will be access for residents during next week's works between Whanganui River Rd and Hawken Rd, and between Burrell Rd and Alexandra Rd. Due to the nature of the works between Hawken and Burrell Roads there will be no access through this section – access for emergency services will remain."

In this instance, SH1 is the alternative route.

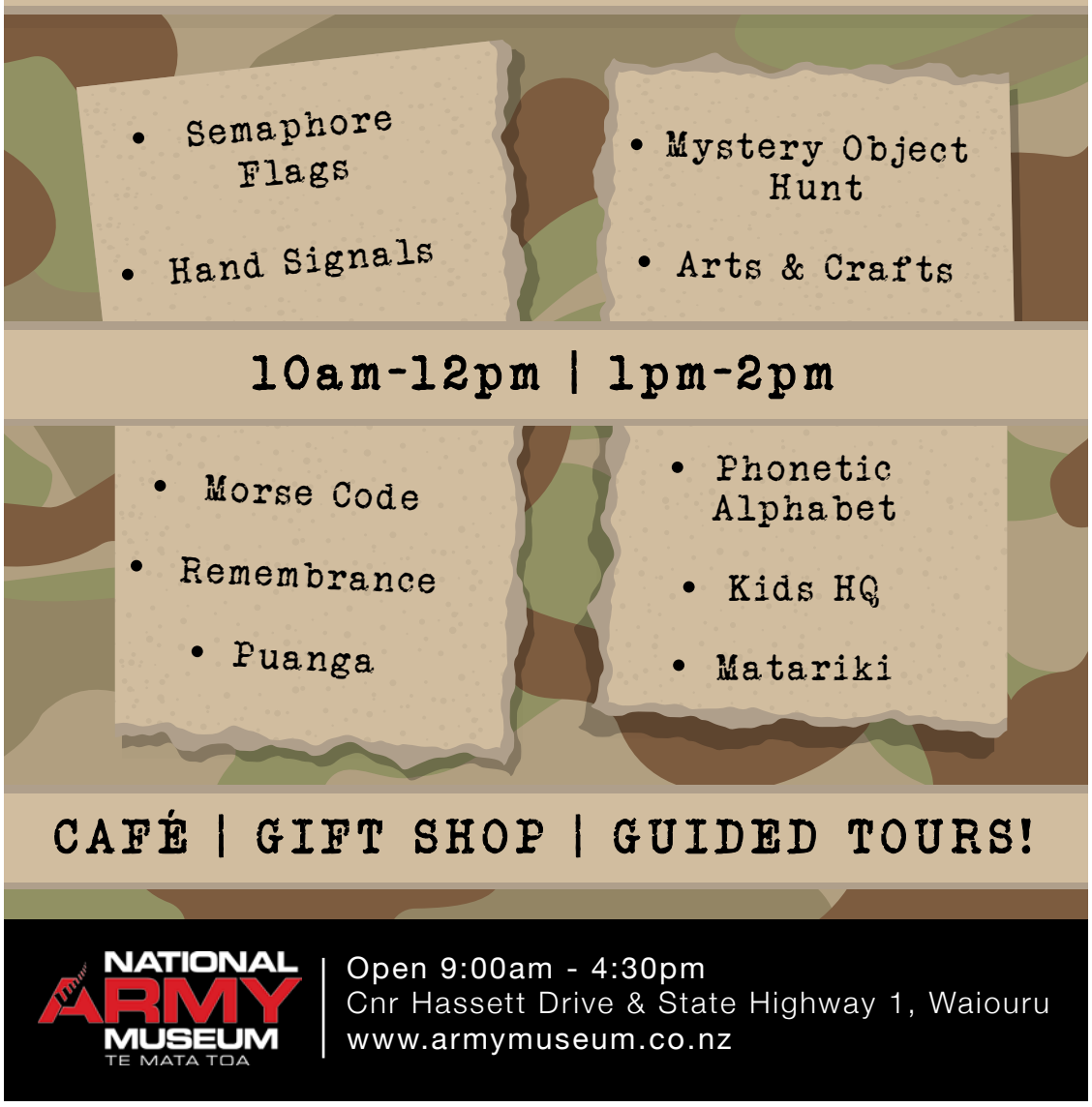
"Once the temporary culvert has been installed, work begins to restore two lanes to that section of road. This work will take longer but can continue with temporary traffic management in place.

"While next week's closures are in place, we will also complete several other important works including dangerous tree removal, inspections of bridges and other structures and general maintenance including drainage, signage, and patching works on the centreline," says Mr Service.

"Other safety work will be carried out, including motorcycle safety improvements, on existing guardrails and the installation of new speed advisory signage and indicator signage at curves in the road; installation of guardrail and advisory signage at several sites along the route.

"We want to thank all road users for their support and understanding during this time as we continue to work to strengthen the long term resilience of this stretch of road."

These works are weather dependent and may be postponed at short notice.




# Pure Tūroa sticking with their bid

Pure Tūroa plans to stay in the running to purchase Tūroa Ski Area, following the Government announcement on Monday. Following is a statement from the company:

• The news from the Crown and Minister Kiri Allan yesterday that a $5M line of funding has been made available to PwC is good news for our local community providing some immediate direction for a 2023 snow sports season.



*Ohakune businessmen Gerg Hickman, at left, and Cam Robertson.*

However, it is unfortunate that this cost falls on the taxpayer due to a failure to complete the acquisitions with the Crown's preferred bidders, Whakapapa Holdings Ltd and Pure Tūroa Ltd prior to winter 2023.

It was a surprising development for a new bidder to emerge late last week following such a long, intensive and costly due diligence and bid preference process undertaken by MBIE. Also given the past six weeks of work we've undertaken with RAL staff and PwC on splitting operations ready for the separate owners.

This along with the recent issues that came to light surrounding the handling of the DoC Concession have put the RAL assets acquisition process and timing into uncertainty. This all places Pure Tūroa in a difficult situation. We are now faced with continuing to have our team and advisors engaged at significant ongoing cost, or to evaluate whether we should withdraw from the process.

We've been engaged in a complex and often perplexing process with the Crown and PwC. It's a difficult and high stress situation with so much at stake for iwi, local businesses and the RAL staff who are working so hard under continually changing circumstances driven by their passion for the maunga.

We do remain optimistic and will support the best outcome for our region, but we feel we now need to express some realities we're dealing with. We also remain convinced that splitting the two fields into separate ownership entities adds a healthy spirit of competition and opens many new exciting possibilities focused around the characteristics of each field and their surrounding communities.

We have serious concerns about what level of Tūroa lift facilities can be operational under a liquidator-run season. Retreating to a 'spine' operation will severely impact revenue and the town's economic performance given an expected lower number of visitors. Pure Tūroa has built a highly experienced operations team complementing existing RAL Tūroa staff, who are ready and willing to start work under Pure Tūroa management.

There are significant deferred maintenance costs including at least a $1M contract payment required immediately to ensure future safe and reliable operations. This part-payment of a larger contract is vital to ensure Tūroa is operationally ready beyond just 2023. Additionally, Tūroa is now behind on staff recruitment due to the uncertainty following the watershed meeting and unlikely to build the full team required for a full service offering.

Quickly building market confidence at this late stage to convince visitors to commit to the costs of coming to ride Tūroa will also be a challenge. Cashflow will be under immense pressure given there has not been any preseason sales.

We are also conscious that the RAL trade creditors, whom Pure Tūroa has committed to pay in full as part of our acquisition, are now in limbo.

The above issues are not insurmountable and Pure Tūroa remains confident that when the DoC Concession issues are resolved, we can step in and start our plan to lift Tūroa to a new level.

We will continue to work with iwi, MBIE and PwC to do the best we can to bring about an independent Tūroa operation that delivers growth and new opportunities to our southern mountain communities.

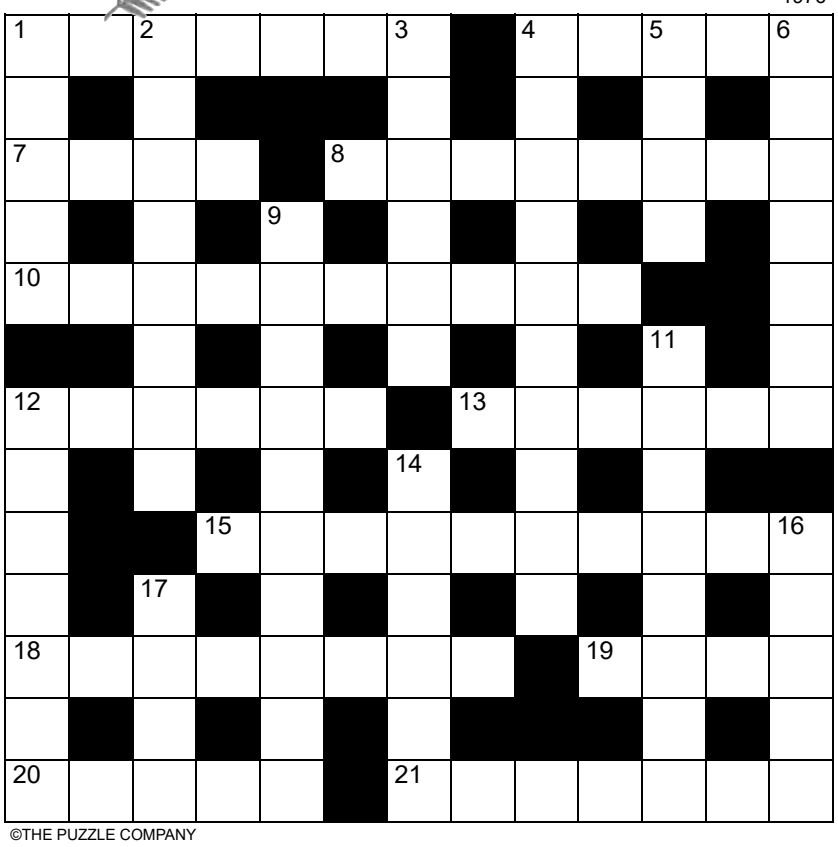
We want to really thank our local businesses, RAL staff, and the snow sports community who have shown us overwhelming support over the past few weeks.

We want to reassure you that Pure Tūroa will continue to work tirelessly on securing the best outcome for Tūroa.

*Greg Hickman and Cam Robertson.*

## THE NZ CROSSWORD

1976



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**Across**

**1.** Sport in which Ellesse Andrews and Campbell Stewart won silver medals at the Tokyo Olympics (7)
**4.** Bob __, 1921-2012, All Black with a Wellington retirement village named after him (5)
**7.** Among (4)
**8.** Stupid person (8)
**10.** Tree of the family Cupressaceae, used for shelter belts (10)
**12.** Mythical creature (6)
**13.** Large scissors (6)
**15.** Captain of the first European ship to reach New Zealand, more than a century before James Cook (4,6)
**18.** Conventional (8)
**19.** Accurate (4)
**20.** Fruit with NZ varieties Breeze, Envy and Dazzle (5)
**21.** Evenly (7)

**Down**

**1.** Allege (5)
**2.** Small talk (8)
**3.** Worldwide (6)
**4.** NZ bedmaking company run by the Turner family since the 1930s (10)
**5.** Kiln (4)
**6.** News (7)
**9.** Risk everything (2,3,5)
**11.** British Royal residence (8)
**12.** Certificate (7)
**14.** Recess (6)
**16.** Craving attention (5)
**17.** Pace (4)

**Previous solution**

**Across:** 1. Len Brown, 7. Broke, 8. New Labour, 9. Icy, 10. Slow, 11. Merman, 13. Genial, 14. Nuance, 17. Spiral, 18. Itch, 20. Lap, 22. Gratitude, 23. Karma, 24. Wide-open. **Down:** 1. Links, 2. Newtown, 3. Ream, 4. Wooded, 5. Dob in, 6. Recycle, 7. Brimful, 12. Taringa, 13. Godlike, 15. No-trump, 16. Wasabi, 17. Spurn, 19. Hoe in, 21. Give.

## Letters

**Labour missing?**

• The general election is just 4 months away. The National Party's new candidate is putting herself out there. She is building awareness and presence with a face the electorate is getting to know via roadside billboards, taking out regular space advertising in local media and anything else she is doing.

In contrast, where is the Labour party candidate? She is nowhere to be seen. Just not visible. No-one knows her. Being elevated to list MP status last year (big deal), will have no effect on the electorate vote at all. She needs to get out there.

Three years ago the National Party candidate won the electoral vote by default. He was uncontested.

The same will happen again if the Labour Party candidate for this electorate does not raise her awareness. There are no excuses for lethargy.

*Greg Walton*


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## Community and Emergency Services

**Alzheimers Whanganui Inc**
Email admin@alzheimerswhanganui.org.nz or for support phone 06-345 8833
**Budget Advice**
Email waimarinobudgetservices@gmail.com or phone 06-385-3253 and leave a message or call 027 259 5285 send text.
**CCS Disability Action (Whanganui)**
Sheryl Brightwell 0800-789-654
**Child, Adolescent and Sexual Health Nurse**
06-385-5019
**Child Youth and Family Service**
0508-326 459
**Churches**
Anglican, 06-385-4957. Baptist, a/h 06-385-3100. Catholic, 06-385-8858 or 027 606 5186. Gospel Chapel, 06-385-8453. Presbyterian, 06-388-0675 or 06-385-8708. Waiouru – duty chaplain 06-387-5599 ext 7031 or 021-493-692
**Civil Defence**
Andrew Chambers 07 895 8188, 021 247 7340
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**Doctors: In an emergency call 111**
Ruapehu Health Ltd 06-385-4211
**Information Centres**
Ohakune 06-385-8427, Raetihi 06-385-4805
**Ngati Rangi Community Health Centre**
06-385-9580
**Plunket Society**
Plunket Nurse 06-385-5019
**Police and Search & Rescue Emergency, call 111**
Ohakune 06-385-0100, Raetihi 06-385-4002, Waiouru 06-387-6884, Military Police 0800-50-11-22
**Red Cross**
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027-344-5669
**Ruapehu REAP**
0800 00 REAP (0800 007 327)
**Ruapehu Maori Wardens**
Email: ruapehumaoriwardens@gmail.com
**St John**
In an emergency call 111
**Taumarunui Counselling Services**
For confidential counselling in Waimarino phone 07-895-6393
**Victim Support Contact Centre**
0800 842 846
**Waimarino Cancer Society**
Co-ordinator 06 348 7402 or Kerri Dewson-Pratt 022 196 7355
**Waimarino Health Care Centre**
Raetihi 06-385-5019
**Waimarino Community Toy Library**
waimarinotoylibrary@gmail.com
**Women's Refuge**
0800-REFUGE 0800 73384

**Ruapehu Mayor**
Weston Kirton, enquiries to 06-385-8364 or 07-895-8188.
**Owhango-National Park Community Board**
Board members: Anthony Gurr 021-487-742; Eddie Marsters 021-108-0279; Simon O'Neill 021-661-159; Peter Zimmer 027 479 1926; Murray Wilson 027-542-9079. Janelle Hinch (RDC rep) 022-385-8683.
**Taumarunui/Ohura Ward Community Board**
Molly Jeffries 021-431-833; Luke Pepper 027-329-2849; Aroha Rudkin 027-873-0061; Sophie Stockbridge 020-401-11190; Oriwia Wanakore 027-222-7872. RDC rep Lyn Neeson 027-353-7907 (texts only)
**Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board**
John 'Luigi' Hotter, 027-274-2616; Stu Robinson 021-024-07657; Kay Henare 027-924-7252; Colin Pakai 021-091-67315; Angel Reid 027-431-6327. RDC rep Rabbit Nottage, 021 111 6514.

**Guidelines is published free of charge. Please help us to keep it up to date – call us if your details change, or if you see something that needs changing: 06-385-8532**

# Tribes back $30m treaty settlement

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporter

Uri of the mountain and river tribes Tamahaki, Tamakana and Uenuku have endorsed the Crown's $30 million package to settle their historical Treaty of Waitangi claims.

Iwi negotiator Aiden Gilbert says the ratification vote result is a milestone for the people of Tamahaki, Tamakana and Uenuku who have sought justice for the "systematic taking of our lands".

"On behalf of us today who have carried the taiaha of justice to reach this corner milestone in support of the Settlement for Tamakana, Uenuku, Tamahaki, nei rā te mihi ki a koutou," Gilbert said.

Under the mantle of the treaty settlement grouping Te Korowai o Wainuiārua, the three tribes initialled Te Tihi o te Rae, their Deed of Settlement, on 12 December last year.

More than 95% of those who voted in the ratification process approved the Deed of Settlement and authorised the trustees of Te Korowai o Wainuiārua Trust to sign the Deed.

Nearly 94% agreed that the proposed Te Korowai o Wainuiārua Trust will be the post-settlement governance entity to receive and manage the settlement redress.

Iwi members were asked to cast two votes through the independent returning officer at electionz.com.

The voter return target of 30 percent was achieved with just over 31% of votes returned – a total of 592 votes cast from 1896 eligible voters. Three-quarters of people voted online and the remaining quarter voted by post or at information hui around the country.

Te Tihi o te Rae includes the Crown's acknowledgement of breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi, an agreed historical account and an apology from the Crown for those breaches.

It also includes cultural redress with the return of several sites and a cultural revitalisation fund of $6.85 million. Financial redress amounts to $21.7 million plus interest and commercial redress includes rights to buy Erua Crown Forest licensed land and sites from the Treaty Settlements Landbank.

Tamahaki, Tamakana and Uenuku will now start preparations for the formal signing of the Deed of Settlement on Saturday 29 July, at Raetihi Marae.

The Deed of Settlement does not provide for redress from the Crown for historical claims relating to Whanganui or Tongariro National Park. This redress has yet to be developed in settlement negotiations between the Crown, Te Korowai o Wainuiārua and other iwi and hapū with interests in the National Parks. The Deed of Settlement records that the Crown is committed to negotiating redress in good faith over the National Parks with Te Korowai o Wainuiārua and others.

Public Interest Journalism funded through NZ On Air



*Erua Conservation Area will be renamed and reclassified as Ngātokoerua Scenic Reserve as part of cultural redress in the Deed of Settlement Te Tihi o te Rae. Photo: Moana Ellis*

# PNG soldier trains NZ Army's future officers



*Captain Peter Morlen with a New Zealand Army Officer Cadet School student out in the field at the Waiouru Army Training Area. Photo supplied.*

Papua New Guinea Defence Force's Captain Peter Morlen is normally more at home teaching the techniques of jungle warfare in the heat of his home country, but is warming to his task passing on his knowledge to New Zealand soldiers in the colder climate of Waiouru.

Captain Morlen, from Daru in the Western Province of Papua New Guinea, arrived in Waiouru in mid-winter June 2022. He had to quickly acclimatise and get an understanding of his new role.

Responsible for delivering leadership training (garrison and field) at the New Zealand Army's Officer Cadet School, Captain Morlen also supports the delivery of the Territorial Force commissioning course, special officers induction course, and the senior non-commissioned officer's course.

He comes well qualified for the role, having spent almost 13 years with the Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF). During that time, he spent three years as an instructor with the PNGDF equivalent school for Officer Cadets.

The secondment, which has been running for more than 30 years, is part of the New Zealand Defence Force's (NZDF) Mutual Assistance Programme (MAP), an integral component of New Zealand's contribution to peace and security in the Asia Pacific. MAP activities include the provision of training, technical and other support to South Pacific and Southeast Asian security and defence forces. It also facilitates opportunities for the NZDF to gain experiences in training and operating in tropical environments.

Captain Morlen has specialist skills that are particularly important for Kiwi soldiers, who often find themselves deploying for various exercises and operations throughout the Pacific.

"I provide techniques, tactics and procedures in close country training and survival in the jungle. And for situational awareness for working in the Pacific, I also teach the main way of life and beliefs for Papua New Guinea and other Pacific Island nations," he said.

Captain Morlen says he's learnt a lot about New Zealand culture too.

"I never thought New Zealanders had traditions until I was introduced to the NZ Army National Marae, where rich cultural stories are found. And more interestingly is how the Māori culture fits perfectly in the military culture. They complement each other," he said.

Captain Morlen will return to Papua New Guinea at the end of 2024, and said that so far, he's really enjoying his time with the NZ Army.

"Kiwis are very respectful, understanding and easy to get along with. Being part of the team, inviting collective ideas is a common practice. I enjoy doing my work and the company of my Kiwi counterparts makes my work easier and interesting. It's been good to learn new Kiwi ways of doing things and values as well."







# Ohakune Mardi Gras bucks the trend



*Prawns were swimming with the Mardi Gras tide.*



*Leggo man and his partner were building some fun.*



*Sesame Street suits were a warm option, and military man and cowgirl showed style.*

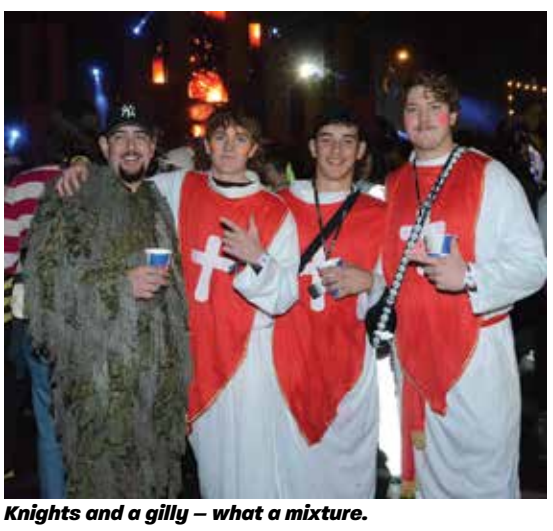




*Techno-punk style was there, from Kapiti and all the way from Timaru. Photos: Robert Milne.*



*80's flouro stye.*



*Knights and a gilly – what a mixture.*


RUAPEHU DISTRICT COUNCIL



**Dog rego fees due this Friday 31 June**

Pay at your local Council office or online at ruapehudc.govt.nz

# Freshwater community grant closes soon

Horizons Regional Council is reminding community groups with freshwater-focused projects to apply for their Regional Freshwater Community Grant before applications close on Friday, 30 June 2023.

Community groups with projects focused on enhancing the quality of freshwater or that foster educational interest around freshwater endeavours are encouraged to apply online at horizons.govt.nz.

Horizons councillors Fiona Gordon and Wiremu Te Awe Awe sit on the Jobs for Nature Governance Group, which award the grants and say they are both looking forward to reviewing the incoming applications next month.

"Freshwater is a precious taonga so to see our communities pursuing projects, which not only help to preserve and enhance the health of the awa, but also teach their whānau and tikanga to do the same, is very special and something we as councillors are proud to be part of," says Cr Te Awe Awe.

"One of Horizons' key areas of work is the preservation of our freshwater resource, so it's wonderful seeing these volunteers give their time to this important cause. We can't wait to see what new projects come in this year thanks to the new region-wide fund," says Cr Gordon.

Previously funded freshwater projects include educational signage for freshwater fish species, drainage covers to catch sediment, and riparian planting to secure erosion and provide filtration from paddock runoff.

Funding for this grant closes on Friday 30 June at 5pm. Successful applicants will be notified at the beginning of August. To be eligible for funding, projects will need to be completed by 30 June 2024.

The fund replaces the Whangaehu Catchment Community Grant, which was restricted to projects in the Whangaehu catchment. It also replaces the Manawatū River Leaders' Accord Freshwater Improvement Fund for 2023.

To learn more about the Regional Freshwater Community Grant, find details on eligibility criteria and apply, visit Horizons website at https://www.horizons.govt.nz/about-our-region-and-council/grants-and-sponsorship/freshwater-community-grant



*Developers of Raetihi's Makotuku Track have been one of the successful grants applicants.*

# Ohakune Mardi Gras bucks the trend



*Jockeying for position at Saturday's Mardi Gras.*

*From Page 1*

turned out to be one of the best in terms of organising.

"We had a flawless run and so far have had zero complaints through our social media channels."

All of the artists were "stoked to be here" and thanked the town for the great night.

Mitch Lowe said the stage production was "crazy, unique" and was again a big hit with the crowd. It featured a pyramid-shaped stack of screens, multiple light show lasers, spotlights and flame cannons.

The train to and from the venue from National Park Village ran really well and party-goers were very happy.

"We'll do that again, 100 per cent."

He said there will still be the after-event "wash-up" to look at any problems and see where things can be further improved. The Ohakune Events Charitable Trust will help with that, giving local residents a chance to air their views and complaints.

**Police pleased**

Police Sergeant Bruce McLeod said they were overall pretty happy with the event, with only two arrests – one related to drug matters and one for failing to stop at a Police checkpoint. The latter resulted in the offender being taken to Whanganui on out-of-town charges that were pending.

Around 10,000 driver breath tests were carried out, with only a few positives.

"Considering the number of people there, that was pretty good."

Several Alcohol Offence Notices (instant fines) were issued for breaches of the liquor ban around town.

He said the crowd inside the venue was well behaved and in good spirits, which he puts down largely to the event being very well run from a customer point of view.

Around 60 Police from Ohakune, Taihape and Taumarunui, as well as staff from Palmerston North, Whanganui and Taranaki were on hand for the event.

A significant amount of drugs were confiscated at the event entrance, some of it voluntarily handed over and some after searches.

A lot of lost property has been handed in to the Ohakune Police Station in Clyde Street and can be collected from there, said Sgt McLeod.


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HAVE YOUR SAY

Time is running out to give your feedback on our draft long-term vision for the Whanganui FMU (freshwater management unit), which begins in Ruapehu and ends on the west coast.

Complete the survey before 9 July - just scan the QR code or visit our website below.

horizons REGIONAL COUNCIL

Oranga Wai OUR FRESHWATER FUTURE

Visit our website at: freshwater.horizons.govt.nz

# Much achieved for College in Term One

Eye on Ruapehu College, contributed by staff and students

The school holidays are almost here and it is now time to reflect and remind ourselves of what has been achieved amidst the interruptions placed upon us and to also acknowledge the resilience and 'grit' possessed by our students and staff, reports principal Marama Allen.

"Time in the classroom may have been reduced, but the learning has continued in its diversity."

She said the term started with the College acknowledging its people – the past, present and the future – through remembrance during the annual ANZAC school assembly – and a waiata filled Inter-Whānau Kapahaka competition.

"The silence and song gave us some respite for what was going to be a busy term," says Mrs Allen.

"Our year 9 cohort have made their presence felt in the school and thrive as they learn through a localised curriculum based on the amazing area we live in.

"Combining several subjects and learning areas, the Te Taiao programme, developed by Poppy Dekker, is one we are extremely proud of implementing."

The year 10 student body left the classroom and experienced an overnight trip to Wellington as part of their social studies learning, taking in the offerings of Parliament House, Te Papa and Zealandia.

The Year 11's completed their literacy and numeracy exams under the pilot for the refurbishment of NCEA.

"Being a pilot school, we have been able to give substantial input in helping shape what the new NCEA requirements will be, and significant progress is being made in preparing our students for it.

"Fourteen students from Year 12 participated in a two-day 'Coffee Essentials' course; and the cliché – the Rock rocked it at Rockquest – is still very fresh in our minds as those students prepare for the next phase of this contest."

The College musicians are to host an audience at the Theatre Royal in Raetihi on Wednesday 28 July and record themselves performing to a crowd.

"Our rangatahi have also trained hard to represent us with pride at the Pae Rangatahi Regional Competition in Te Hawera.

"We have been fortunate to be blessed with favourable weather, which has not only allowed for successful field trips in biology, geography and photography, but also for the students in the Building Academy to make significant progress on the house being constructed onsite."

Puhoro STEM Academy students from Years 11, 12 and 13, left their wānanga in Palmerston North with new skills in Matauranga Maori and Science, as well as connecting and being inspired by the aspirations of other students in the Manawatu area.

"The generosity given by St John Waimarino afforded our senior students time with the team from RYDA (Rotary Youth Driver Awareness), who gave advice and experience to our budding and new drivers that went beyond road rules."

The 'Loves Me Not' workshop, facilitated by teachers and professionals from the community, has also given senior students contextual advice and tools to keep themselves and others safe as they begin to navigate the world of relationships.

Preparations for next year have begun for many of the Year 13 students as they consider their options from visiting universities and ex-student talks.

"The anticipatory vibe around their next chapters is an exciting phase of their journey in life," says Mrs Allen.

**Sports**

She said the College's sporting prowess continues on the fields and courts around the region. The rugby boys formed a 1st XV team and are currently playing in the Premier 2 division of the Manawatu Secondary Schools Rugby competition with three wins out of their four games played to date.

Netball continues to be popular this year and there are two teams developing nicely in the Central Plateau Competition.

"Our more senior team is having tremendous success in the Whanganui Competition progressing into a higher grade with many members having also secured a position in a Whanganui representative team."

Students playing squash are making advancements in their grades and hosted players from Palmerston North Boys High School in a squash sports exchange.

"And although there is no current competition to play in, students involved with soccer are grateful for the opportunity and continue to commit to their practice sessions with the hope of friendly games next term," says Mrs Allen.

**School production**

"Let us not forget the preparations for the highlights to come. With production rehearsals heating up for the showcase first week back next term, Senior Ball attire on order, Secondary School Squash Nationals and an exciting online Math's Challenge for those Year 9 students who signed up, we are set to support our students in all their ventures," says Mrs Allen.

"As shown, education exposes students to a world of opportunities and, although teachers can open the doors, the students themselves need to enter to make the most of what is on offer. The benefits of extra-curricular activities have been well documented as skills in leadership, teamwork, positive interactions, time management as well as building confidence and increasing academic performance and all of these attributes have been on display this term. Success grows success, and as we move into next term following the break, may we ensure all our students walk through the doors daily to grasp all opportunities in and outside of the classroom."



*Ruapehu College's Building Academy has made good progress on their house build. Photos supplied.*



*The College First Fifteen clocked up three wins out of four games so far.*



*The Te Taiao Programme has been popular, and fun.*


Ruapehu Bulletin

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## DEATH NOTICES

**JORDAN, RANDALL CHARLES:**
Formerly of Taumarunui. Died 15th May 2021 aged 70 years. Beloved son of the late Les and Pat. Brother of Sherryn, Connie and the late Malcolm, brother-in-law of Kevin and Henry, uncle of Trudy, Geoff, Josie and Eden.
Friends and family are invited to a Graveside Service and the interment of Randall's ashes at Lakes Road Cemetery, Ohakune, Tuesday 11th July at 11 am.

TAUMARUNUI FUNERAL SERVICES

www.ohakune.info

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Hui a Iwi Tamahaki

Sunday 9 July, 10am
Tamahaki office, Raetihi

Treaty settlement Report

Pot luck lunch

Contact Paora Haitana 0211 964 885

**PUBLIC NOTICES**
**Section 101, Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012**
**Osteria Ohakune Limited** has made an application to the District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council for the **Renewal of an On Licence** in respect of the premises situated at **73 Clyde Street, Ohakune** known as **Osteria Ohakune.** The general nature of the business to be conducted under the licence is that of a **Restaurant.** The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is intended to be sold under the licence are: **Interior of the Premises and Inner Courtyard: Monday - Sunday: 10.00am – 12.00am. Alfresco Dining Area: Monday – Sunday: 10.00am – 10.00pm**
The application may be inspected during ordinary office hours at the office of the Ruapehu District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council, 59-63 Huia Street, Taumarunui.
Any person who is entitled to object and who wishes to object to the issue of the licence may, not later than 15 working days after the date of the publication of this notice, file a notice in writing of the objection with the Secretary of the District Licensing Committee at Ruapehu District Council, Private Bag 1001, Taumarunui 3946.
No objections to the issue of a licence may be made in relation to a matter other than a matter specified in section 105(1) of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.
This is the first publication of this notice.

OE CT
OHAKUNE EVENTS CHARITABLE TRUST

### Mardi Gras 2023 Community Feedback

With another year's Mardi Gras done and dusted, we'd love to get the community's feedback on anything we can do to improve this event for next year.

Please email us at **oectnz@gmail.com** by Monday 10 July.


### Alzheimers Whanganui

**Services in the Waimarino**
- Do you need to speak to someone about concerns with cognitive issues
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**Our Support Coordinator will be in Raetihi**
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**10.30 am - 2.00 pm**

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# Mardi Gras cleaner-uppers impressed with improvements



***The Pony Club Mardi Gras clean-up crew after their Sunday morning work. Photo supplied.***

While most were still sleeping in the early hours of Sunday morning, 27 riders and friends, parents and helpers of the Waimarino Pony Club were combing the streets, picking up rubbish as one of their annual fundraisers for the organisers of the Ohakune Mountain Mardi Gras.

"The pony club have been doing this for years and are always asked back due to the amazing work ethic of our crew and how we are all committed to restoring our town to a cleaner state than it was in before Mardi Gras," says Angela McCoubrie on behalf of the Club.

"This year we were surprised at how little rubbish there was around the streets compared to previous years."

She said they understood that the organisers had promoted more responsible litter care.

"If so, I really think it worked, said Angela McCoubrie, "along with the sunshine and clicking up an average of over 12km per person and some pretty enjoyable company, the pony club members quite enjoyed their morning.

"It's lovely how many people thank us whilst picking up the rubbish and we have a good giggle at some of the sights we see."

# Time running out for Kiwis to apply for financial help to support wetlands

New Zealanders are being urged to apply for funding to support wetlands on their properties.

Applications for grants from the Game Bird Habitat Stamp programme, which raises funds for the protection and enhancement of game bird or other wildlife habitat, close on 30 June.

Five dollars from every game bird hunting licence sold goes to the Game Bird Habitat Trust for the programme. Any person or organisation can apply for funding for relevant wetland projects.

Approximately $22 million has been invested so far in restoring wetlands, mainly on private rural land, in partnership between hunters and landowners.

"Wetlands add amazing value to properties and they're critical for the wellbeing of the environment," says Corina Jordan, chief executive of Fish & Game.

"They are a key mitigation tool in a farmer's toolbox to support the efforts of catchment communities, but also provide a source of stock drinking water in dry weather.

"Protecting and restoring wetlands is a key focus for Fish & Game. Only three per cent of New Zealand's original wetlands remain, so any work makes a difference in supporting our indigenous flora and fauna as well as our game bird species. That in turn creates recreational opportunities for rural communities and for hunting."

For details on how to apply for the funding, visit the Fish & Game website.

# Final whistle looms to complete 2023 census

There is still time to be counted in the 2023 Census but the clock is ticking down, with just days to go until Aotearoa's five yearly count of people and dwellings officially closes, Stats NZ said last week.

"There are the people who complete their census forms on or before Census Day and there are those who do it after, so in that sense it's really a game of two halves. But there's definitely no overtime," said Simon Mason, Deputy Government Statistician and Deputy Chief Executive for Census and Collection Operations.

"Once the ref calls time on 30 June, it's game over, but people still have the chance to beat the buzzer before then," he quipped.

Simon Mason says people can still complete their census forms online at www.census.govt.nz right up until 5pm on Friday 30 June, or mail their completed paper forms to arrive with Stats NZ on the same day to be counted.

"This is something small that everyone can do to help inform key decisions that impact their family, neighbourhood, hapū, iwi, or church group.

"This has been the most inclusive census ever, so when we say tatau tātou, it's true that all of us count – we want everyone to be counted, considered and included."

The data collected stays private and secure and will ultimately support people and communities, including recovery in cyclone affected areas and allocation of funding for infrastructure and services that all communities need and deserve, Simon Mason says.

People can also request a new online access code from the website or by calling the census helpline up until 30 June.

If people have completed their census forms but have received a reminder letter, they can also ring the census helpline.

Information is available online in New Zealand Sign Language, Braille, Easy Read, Large Print, and Audio formats, and 29 different languages.

Simon Mason says the first release of 2023 Census data is planned for May 2024, and this will include high-level counts of the population, dwellings, and Māori descent.




***Ruapehu's extreme skier Jess Hotter in action in the Freeride World Tour, on her way to taking the 2022 title of female Freeride World Champion. See inside for details. Photo: Freeride World Tour.***

# PRINTING SOON!

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# Ruapehu stay winless with loss to Border

By Jared Smith

The Barracks Bar Challenge Shield will stay in Waverley for the summer after Waverley Harvesting Border over-ran McCarthy's Transport Ruapehu 50-10 on Friday night.

With Mardi Gras 2023 in Ohakune on Saturday and the visitors also missing six regulars including Roman Tutauha and Jamie Hughes, Ruapehu's last game of the season was moved under lights at Dallison Park, which was also a bonus for the host club as their Tasman Tanning Premier team had been on the bye in 5 May when their annual 'Duck Shooting' night game is held.

Ruapehu had their own sentimentality, as with a depleted bench, retired Steelform Whanganui centenarian capped player Peter Rowe came off the bench to play the last 35 minutes and displayed a lot of the old cleanout skills, while in the last five minutes, his talented son Harry Rowe came onto the wing for his Premier rugby debut.

It should be noted Border scored two breakaway tries in the last five minutes to really blow out the score line, otherwise 40-10 would have been a fairer reflection of how hard Ruapehu worked.

Their young backline, many of whom started their careers as loose forwards, just got out-run by Border's speedsters – with centre Alekesio Vakarorogo getting a double while setting up tries by wingers Luke Myers and Harry Symes.

Border subbed key men Craig Clare and Angus Middleton for the second half, both taking knocks to the leg, but they had reinforcements as former Whanganui No8 Bryn Hudson came off the bench for his second Premier game for his new club after being injured in the season opener, scoring a try.

Picking up team player of the day honours was Hussey, who commutes from Matamata to still play for Border, and he was determined to register points in his 100th game – powering through for a try, although his two conversion attempts were unsuccessful.

Halfback Lindsay Horrocks and reserve back Ben Aiken dotted down in each half.

Ruapehu scored the first try of the game through halfback Kahl-Elers Green, while second-five Conner McIntyre scored off a clever cross kick by flanker Hamish McKay, with fellow flanker Fergus Smith getting the team player of the day honours.

Barracks Bar Challenge Shield – Waverley Harvesting Border 50 (Alekesio Vakarorogo 2, Lindsay Horrocks, Luke Myers, Kieran Hussey, Bryn Hudson, Ben Aiken, Harry Symes tries; Craig Clare 3 con, Nick Harding 2 con) bt McCarthy Transport Ruapehu 10 (Kahl Elers-Green, Connor McIntyre tries). HT: 21-5.




***Ruapehu's return season to the Whanganui Premier Rugby Competition finished on Friday night under lights at Dallison Park. Photo supplied.***

# Ohakune Squash

Last Tuesday Ohakune Squash Club hosted Taihape for the annual challenge shield. Taihape brought up over 20 players with Ohakune match them for a series of singles matches. Ohakune made the most of their home advantage to come out on top and retain the shield.

Over the weekend Grace Burnard continued her run of good results, winning the Waikato Junior Open at Te Awamutu. Grace went in as second seed. She is now only 5 points off B1.

This week a second round of inter-house starts with seven even teams of eleven club members playing each other over the next seven weeks. This Thursday's draw: at 5:00pm team five plays team three, at 6:30 team two plays team six and at 8pm team seven plays team four with team one having a bye. Team five runs the kitchen from 5:00pm with team four taking over at 7:00pm. Teams are very similar to round one but team captains will let players know who is in their team.

Junior coaching finishes this week as the term ends. A big thankyou to Matt and his team of college students for their coaching throughout the term. Next term a round of team games similar to the senior interhouse format is planned for the junior club members. All games would be for grading points and a great build up for the Central junior age groups which are being hosted in Ohakune at the end of July.



***Grace Burnard is the Waikato Junior Open squash champion.***

# Power firm makes the Energy Excellence finals

The King Country's power firm The Lines Company (TLC) have been selected as category finalists for the 2023 New Zealand Energy Excellence Awards.

The annual event provides a platform to recognise achievements, innovations, and excellence throughout the energy sector.

The Lines Company is in the running for top honours in the Community Initiative of the Year category with their Māniaroa Marae solar project entry – a category recognising wide-reaching benefits to both the organisation and the community involved.

The project, implemented in collaboration with Te Nehenehenui, Aotahi Limited and electricity retailer Ecotricity, and with funding support from MBIE, saw the installation of an 18kW solar array on the wharekai at Māniaroa Marae, located near Mōkau. The installation of this solar hardware, coupled with an innovative peer-to-peer trading platform, enables excess solar energy to be shared with five local whānau within the project. The five whare involved in the project have each saved an average of $100 per month on their energy bills, collectively equating to savings of $6000 annually.

"As a community-owned organisation, the project showcases just one of the ways TLC is working to support and grow our communities with energy," says TLC chief executive Mike Fox.

"In addition, the project really helps to facilitate the push towards decarbonisation, better enabling our customers to harness power from the sun and connect solar to our network."

With a record number of entries across the ten award categories from over 50 organisations, the competition in this year's event is plentiful. Award winners will be announced at an awards evening at Te Pae Christchurch Convention Centre in Christchurch on Wednesday, 30 August.


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