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First Puanga night market P2	Pue up for mayor P3	Whanganui River art on show P5	Mangateitei Stream pathway P7
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Matariki on the maunga

The first Matariki public holiday was marked in various ways around Ruapehu on Friday, including at the Top o' The Bruce at Whakapapa.

"While it might have risen in the public eye, more so this year, Matariki is something that we, at Mt Ruapehu, have long celebrated," said Steve Manunui at Ruapehu Alpine Lifts.

Matariki is a star cluster that rises mid-winter, heralding the start, for many Māori, of a new year. Iwi across New Zealand understand and celebrate Matariki in different ways and at different times.

On Friday morning, as they have done so for the last 15 years, RAL staff and friends celebrated Matariki at Whakapapa, supported by Te Kura o Hirangi.

"We gathered our whānau at the break of dawn, and took time to reflect, to be thankful, and to look forward to what we wanted for the year ahead," said Steve Manunui.

"We were in the moment with one another - grateful for this mighty maunga, for being able to call it home, and for those who it calls home, year after year.

"For us, Matariki not only signals the start of a new year, but it is special in that it also signals the start of our winter."

Photo: Steve Manunui



iSite upgrade delay out-voted

A move to delay on upgrading Ruapehu District's iSites was defeated after an intense debate at Wednesday's council meeting in Taumarunui.

Councillors were asked to approve a Visitor Information Network Future proposal, which would see Ohakune's iSite deemed a Tier 1 location and Taumarunui as a Tier 2 location as part of the future network strategy.

The proposal includes a \$200,000 budget of RDC funds, with a contribution of the same amount from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE).

New Zealand's Visitor Information Network is working on a series of upgrades including rebranding and outfitting of the Tier 1 i-Sites to "give much-needed improvements" and benefits to the network and to individual sites.

But some councillors were not happy at the expenditure, led by Ohura Ward councillor Lyn Neeson.

"To spend this money (\$200,000) on this upgrade at this time, when there is better spend ... in our district ... I think it is wrong," she told her fellow-councillors.

"There are a lot of better ways we could spend this money in the district."

She was supported by deputy mayor Karen Ngatai.

Both cited the increases in the cost of living including the impact of soaring fuel prices, which is particularly affecting farmers.

Lyn Neeson said farmers would be paying the most towards the project, which was unfair.

Turn to Page 3



Ohakune's visitor centre - to be rebranded.

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Ohakune Snow Festival 24 July – 7 August

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

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Eating out in the Ruapehu District

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First Puanga night market

There was a “fantastic response” to the inaugural Puanga night market on Thursday, to celebrate the end of the old year and the beginning of the new.

“Being able to have kai, family, friends and crafts all together in one space and so well supported by our local community, organisers and stall holders were stunned by the support, with all of the food stalls sold out by 7pm,” says Maaki Tuatini.

“One food stall holder was overheard saying they would bring double the amount of food next year as this event was a test for the future.”

Raffles were well supported and the quick-fire Matariki Quiz was well-supported, with questions being asked by Maaki Tuatini and prizes for children and adults.

“It was great to see people standing around the blazing brazier outside just enjoying having a chat and a catch-up – the social interaction of the community was rewarding.

“The other highlight was watching nannies with their mokopuna, playing and laughing – some beautiful moments.”

The committee wishes to express their thanks to the community, and look forward to next year's event.



Waimarino Waiouru local board member Kay Henare cooks up a storm at last Thursday's Puanga Night Market in Raetihi. Photo John Chapman.

Ruapehu rates up 4.12%

Ruapehu District's ratepayers will pay an average of 4.12% more for the services the local council provides in the July 2022 to June 2023 financial year.

Councillors adopted their annual plan at their meeting in Taumarunui last Wednesday.

“Despite many complex challenges before us including Covid-19, three waters and sector reforms, material and contractor shortages, climate change, and iwi co-governance, to name a few, we remain committed to maintaining levels of service, while keeping on top of critical infrastructure needs,” stated the mayor, Don Cameron in his preamble to the Plan.

He said the Long Term Plan projected an average rates revenue increase for this 2022/2023 year of 8.6%, driven significantly by debt servicing costs associated with the three waters activities.

“Following a detailed review of all our activities and budgets, Council has adopted an average 4.1% rate increase for this 2022/2023 financial year, which is well below the forecast 8.6% in the Long Term Plan and within the quantified limit on rates of 4.4% (Local Government Cost Index + 2%).

“While we are unhappy that the rates increase is above the target of 3.5% that we set ourselves for rates increases, it is the minimum required to keep our work pro-

gramme going while supporting community development with the cost challenges we are experiencing.”

He said general inflation rises, rising interest rates, increasing construction costs and subsequently depreciation costs, new three waters standards, uncertain funding support, and labour market pressures, are creating significant headwinds for Council.

“As in previous years, Council has managed to keep rates down by keeping costs under tight control, managing debt servicing and depreciation costs, and taking full advantage of any Government funding opportunities. To date, Council's success in gaining Government funding for water projects has played a significant part in our ability to keep debt and rate levels down.”

He said in 2021/2022, Council's \$15.3m water infrastructure spend was supported by \$5.6m in Covid recovery funding.

“For some time, we have been flagging that without further Government support, debt for three waters projects would reach uncomfortable levels. The end of this current funding will require Council to borrow to maintain our three waters work programme, which will see our projected debt increase to \$52.9m, leaving little headroom in Council's self-imposed limit on debt affordability of \$53.1m.”

He says despite the focus on three waters, Council's largest area of expenditure continues to be on land transport, with \$16.8M budgeted for capital works in the coming year and another \$10.8M on operational spending.

Major land transport projects starting this year include the replacement of the Ruapehu Road and Mangateitei Road rail over-bridges and Matahiwi Track Suspension bridge upgrade.

Rates increase variations

As is usually the case, rates changes vary across the District, depending on several factors including changes in land values.

In the examples presented in the Annual Plan, the biggest percentage increase will apply to a sample commercial property in Ohura, with a 4.3% increase (capital value \$65,000, dollar value increase \$74).

The sample property facing the smallest increase would be an Ohakune rural property, which sees a 0.84% (capital value \$930,000, dollar value increase \$27).

The biggest dollar increase amongst the example properties would be a Raetihi rural property (\$6,870,000) that would see a \$687 increase (up 3.80%).

The smallest dollar value increase is a Waiouru property, capital value \$261,000, which will be billed \$20 more (up 3.02%).



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Pue to run for Ruapehu mayoralty

Incumbent councillor and well-known community leader Elijah Pue has announced his intention to stand for the mayoralty of the Ruapehu district for the 2022 local body election.

"I've worked hard for three years on council and have applied myself towards understanding all the requirements to deliver in this office. I'm honoured to have the backing of my whānau and those whom I serve, to campaign for the mayoralty this year," said Mr Pue.

"My campaign will be focused on three issues which are fundamental to community prosperity; one, boosting economic development; two, addressing the climate emergency, and three, enabling better housing and community outcomes by removing the "red tape".

"We all know this region is the centre of our universe; our health and wellbeing, our capacity to be wealth-generating and our protection for our environment deserves dedicated focus – and that's what I have the energy and the determination to achieve.

"I'm a proud Ruapehu local who believes decisions we make today must leave a positive blueprint for future generations – with our environment and community at the forefront of those

decisions. Our unique rural landscape has untapped potential in areas from agriculture to tourism, to natural sciences, innovation and technology.

"I'm excited by these opportunities for Ruapehu, and it's now our time to realise them.

"I also represent a demographic whose influence is desperately needed in our community. With over 45% in the district Māori; 20% in the age group 18-35; and 25% under 18 years of age; I am able to respond to and reflect priorities of population groups that have been too frequently ignored in local government.

"I'm excited by the opportunity to get out and meet people from all walks of our unique rural community – from Waimiha in the North, to Pipiriki in the South. I've got lots of work to do, and I'm energised by the opportunity ahead of me.

"I also wish Cr Doyle well in his Mayoral campaign, and look forward to seeing him out on the campaign trail.

"It's our time to activate our opportunities, realise our aspirations, and celebrate our uniqueness.

To do this, we need future-focused leadership that has a heart for the community, its people, and its environment. It's our time Ruapehu."



Cr Elijah Pue, standing for mayor of the Ruapehu District.

iSite upgrade plan delay out-voted

From Page 1

She proposed that the matter lie on the table until the information that councillors requested in October last year is made available.

She said she is not proposing that RDC scraps iSites, but that it's not the time to spend \$200,000.

Council officers Kim Treen and Pauline Welch said it was important to go ahead with the project now as tourism numbers are increasing with the borders reopening.

"For now," said Cr Ngatai.

Two options: upgrade or close

Kim Treen said the decision could be delayed but that "you can keep it as Tier One, or you can close".

However, Cr Ngatai said she did not accept that these were the only options.

Cr Elijah Pue said the Council "should be doing everything we can to support tourism in our District".

Cr Kim Wheeler supported the plan, saying Ruapehu needs to be ready for a revival of tourism.

He said RDC supporting tourism is supporting the community.

Pauline Welch said RDC would lose a lot of support from the VIN if they were pulled out of

the network.

Cr Janelle Hinch said tourism operators are also ratepayers, not just farmers.

She said it made sense to have the rebranding done now, before tourism steps up, rather than wait until it's already under way.

All pay for rural roads

Cr Adie Doyle said he was opposed to letting the issue lie on the table (to wait for further information).

He said Ruapehu has two main exports – farm produce and tourism.

"Stopping spending on tourism, when it is starting up again, is like saying "let's stop spending on rural roads.

"All ratepayers pay for rural roads."

He said Ruapehu has the second-best one-day walk in the world and the largest ski areas in the North Island and RDC needs to capitalise on that.

The motion to have the agenda item lie on the table was lost.

iSites need refurbishing

RDC chief executive Clive Manley said that Ruapehu's iSites needed refurbishing either way.

He said the money has been provided for in the Long Term Plan, but is being brought forward to

take advantage of MBIE funding.

"We would have to rebrand in any case, if we left the Visitor Information Network."

Capital

The capital cost of rebranding would be matched dollar for dollar from the International Visitors Levy funds through Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE).

The network's new model is designed to support the recovery of tourism in a more sustainable way across the country, following the pandemic. RDC was presented with the proposal in July 2021, with councillors expressing interest in the proposal.

Tier 1 locations would be concept stores in key locations. They would choose to meet higher membership requirements under an amended VIN Inc constitution and co-invest with government in an internal upgrade "to provide an enhanced visitor experience". Tier 1 Locations would continue to be members of VIN Inc.

Tier 2 locations would operate under a secondary brand, with lower membership commitments to reflect their ongoing investment. They would not be members of VIN Inc and would operate under a license agreement.

"The core purpose of the network is to deliver

Manaakitanga, Katiakitanga and Whanaungatanga to enrich visitors and communities alike through the experience of tourism," councillors were told.

"The objective is to increase brand equity, service standards, sustainability, instore foot traffic, and digital visitation while maintaining income streams."

The major benefit will be the refit and upgrade of the Ohakune Tier 1 location, with capital costs shared between Council and MBIE. New branding would be installed.

The refit and upgrade would include signature flooring, signature painting, internal branding, standardised furniture, brochure racking and digital displays, modular digital displays for stories including Qualmark/Maori/DOC/TIAKI and Cycle Trails, as well as digital interactive information panels, New Zealand and regional wall maps, and standardised retail display units.

The network would develop a closer working partnership with DOC, Tourism New Zealand, local government, iwi and tourism operators to provide stronger linkages to national strategies and Tiaki principles in support of industry recovery.

Business development support and technology would also be part of the plan.

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Pou found in Raetihi



Over 30 years ago a group of ski enthusiasts from Auckland got together and purchased a house in Raetihi. During a yearly maintenance session over the recent Matariki weekend, they were digging out some of the posts from a recently-removed carport and came across a M ori carving. The property owners believe it must have been near the carport and had "subsequently been buried under years of weeds and neglect". It's about two metres tall, still in relatively good condition and has obviously been on display somewhere as it has nails and wires to hang it from. "We'd love to know if it belongs to someone so we can return it, or if anyone has any information about it," says Fiona Robb. Anyone with information can contact the Bulletin, email ed@ruapehubulletin.co.nz or phone 06-385-8532 and we'll pass it on.

Woman rescued from Rangipo after weather delayed rescue



Taupo and Turangi Land Search and Rescue, Taupo Police and the New Zealand Defence Force responded an injured woman at Tongariro National Park. Photo supplied.

An injured woman was rescued from Tongariro National Park on Friday from the Rangipo Hut on the eastern slopes of Mt Ruapehu.

She was with a group including four other trampers, who assisted her to Rangipo Hut where they contacted emergency services.

Members of Taupō and Tūrangi Land Search and Rescue, along with Taupō Police and the New Zealand Defence Force responded to the call for help.

Efforts to reach the woman via helicopter were unsuccessful due to weather conditions.

The group stayed overnight at the hut and LandSAR teams were able to successfully reach the woman and assist her out of the park.

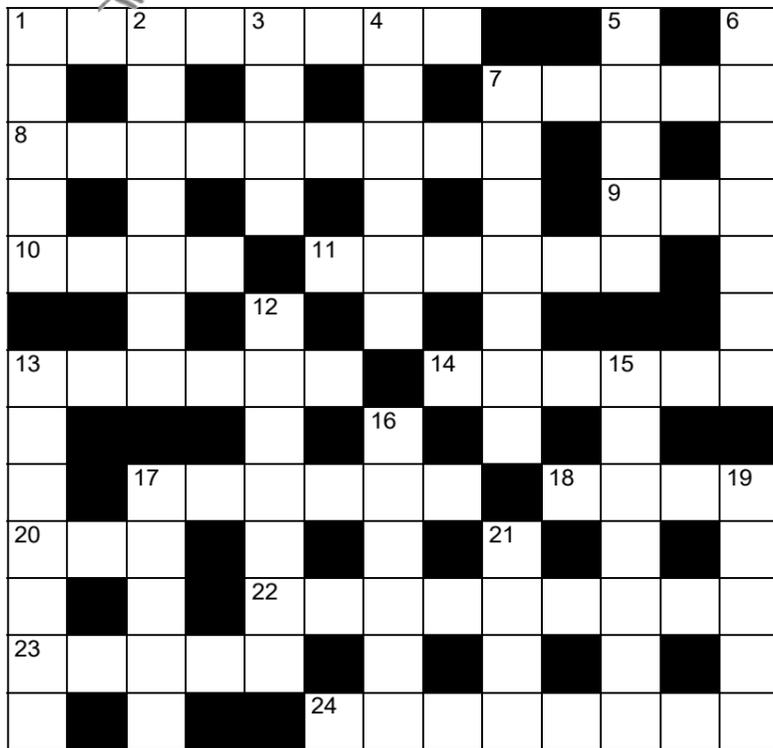
Initial indications suggest the woman had received minor injuries.

Community and Emergency Services

- Alzheimers Whanganui Inc**
For support phone 06-345 8833
Email: admin@alzheimerswhanganui.org.nz
 - Budget Advice**
Phone or text Noeline 027-259-5285, or phone 06-385-3253 and leave a message.
 - Cancer Society Whanganui**
06 348 7402 or Kerri Dewson-Pratt 022 196 7355
 - Child, Adolescent and Sexual Health Nurse**
06-385-5019
 - Child Youth and Family Service**
0508-326 459 or 06-965-3539
 - 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
 - CLAW community free legal advice**
Whanganui 06-348-8288
 - Disability Resources Centre (Whanganui)**
Vivienne Bird, 0800-789-654
 - Doctors: In an emergency call 111**
Ruapehu Health Ltd 06-385-4211
 - Information Centres**
Ohakune 06-385-8427, Raetihi 06-385-4805
 - IRD appointments**
06-901-6162
 - Ngati Rangī Community Health Centre**
06-385-9580
 - Plunket Society**
Plunket Nurses 06-385-8265, Car Seats 06-385-5019
 - Police and Search & Rescue Emergency, call 111**
Ohakune 06-385-0100, Raetihi 06-385-4002, Waiouru 06-387-6884, Military Police 0800-50-11-22
 - Red Cross**
Shelagh Buck 06-385-8610
 - Rotary, Raetihi - Ohakune**
027-344-5669
 - Ruapehu REAP**
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 - Ruapehu Maori Wardens**
Rangi Bristol 027-442-4593
 - St John**
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 - Taumarunui Counselling Services**
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 - Victim Support Contact Centre**
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 - Waimarino Cancer Society**
Co-ordinator 06 348 7402 or Kerri Dewson-Pratt 022 196 7355
 - Waimarino Health Care Centre**
Raetihi 06-385-5019
 - Women's Refuge**
0800-800-4-refuge 0800-4-733-84
 - Waimarino Community Toy Library**
027 728 2413 leave a message (turned on open days only)
 - Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board**
John 'Luigi' Hotter, 06-385-8193; Allan Whale, 06-385-9139; Cynthia Dowsett 06-385-8086. RDC reps Rabbit Nottage, 021 111 6514, Vivienne Hoeta 022-65-88-320, Janelle Hinch 022 385 8683. Other ward councillors Elijah Pue 027 740 6253
 - National Park Community Board**
Board members: Simon O'Neill 021-661-159; Peter Zimmer 027 479 1926; Mark Bolten 021 191 5385; Clark McCarthy 027 475 0561. RDC rep, Murray Wilson 07-892-2774.
 - Taumarunui/Ohura Ward Committee**
07-893-8575; Graeme Cosford, 07-895-7572; Karen Ngatai, 07-896-6658; Kim Wheeler 027-229-1527; Adie Doyle 027-495-3308; Robyn Gram 027 389 1912; Lyn Neeson 07 895 7803
 - Ruapehu Mayor**
Don Cameron, 021 202 7629
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THE NZ CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

1. Forebear (8)
7. Online abuser (5)
8. Financial obligation (9)
9. NZ's second largest university (3)
10. Giant New Zealand insect (4)
11. Length in miles attributed to fabled Northland strip of sand (6)
13. Auckland suburb named after a Devon town (6)
14. Sharp reply (6)
17. NZ historian, award winner for book on Treaty of Waitangi (6)
18. Nerd (4)
20. Round hat (3)
22. Not challenged (9)
23. Maori rites for the dead (5)
24. Entrees (8)

DOWN

1. Permit (5)
2. Beer mat (7)
3. Put into words (4)
4. Beginnings (6)
5. At this time (5)
6. As fast as possible (4,3)
7. Arrange text for print (7)
12. New Zealand canal town (7)
13. Material used for ball gowns (7)
15. Supervise (7)
16. North Island national park (6)
17. Form of oxygen (5)
19. Praise received for an achievement (5)
21. Aid used by riders to urge a horse on (4)

Previous solution

Across: 7. Amusement park, 8. Orthodox, 9. Ilam, 10. Strait, 12. El Nino, 14. Ear, 15. Useful, 17. Tawdry, 19. Char, 21. Tararuas, 23. Eleanor Catton.
Down: 1. Emirates, 2. Asthma, 3. Amid, 4. Inexpert, 5. Option, 6. Area, 11. Telethon, 13. Narrator, 16. Format, 18. Warmth, 20. Holy, 22. Race.

Book fines dropped

Fines for overdue library books are a thing of the past, with Ruapehu District councillors adopting the 2022-23 Annual Plan last week.

Lenders of overdue books used to be charged 20 cents for each day overdue, up to \$10.

The Council library made the decision to drop late fees because studies show that this approach would increase customer membership and retention; increase borrowing and return of items; reduces barriers to literacy outcomes; increases customer satisfaction; save staff time on payment transactions; increase trust in, and enhanced reputation for council.



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Major exhibition partners with tribal river entity

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporter

A major new exhibition about the Whanganui River and its people opens on Monday, showcasing new taonga and ancient treasures from its internationally renowned Taonga Māori collection that haven't been seen before.

He Awa Ora – Living River has been in development for more than a year at the Whanganui Regional Museum.

Museum director Dr Bronwyn Labrum said exhibitions of taonga in the Māori court and other parts of the museum tell general stories, but the new display focuses specifically on the river.

She said there had been many discussions over the years with visitors, locals, iwi and hapū about the desire to lift understanding of the river's significance to the region and its people, from the mountains to the sea.

"He Awa Ora really fixes on the Whanganui River as a living river. It brings taonga from various iwi along the river settlements to tell stories about what the river means to people, why it's important and how we must take care of it.

"It also explains the ground-breaking legislation from 2017 where the river was recognised as a person, and we hope it will help our visitors understand what is so significant and so important about the river and its histories."

Labrum said the exhibition will run for a year, after which the museum will take some moveable elements to iwi and hapū for show in other parts of the region.

"We have designed the exhibition to be modular. We hope that parts of it will be able to travel to local iwi in river settlements and at marae, where they'll be able to display more treasures of their own that for various reasons couldn't come into the



museum at this time.

"We haven't really begun those negotiations but one of the things I am very keen on is not to always expect people to come into the museum to see and commune with taonga – that we should be able to take taonga and information out to people."

Labrum said future partnerships could be forged with individual hapū to co-host their own exhibitions at the museum, in a similar way to how Te Papa hosted long-term iwi exhibitions.

"It's really about reconnecting taonga with the people who whakapapa to them. In some cases that is also leading to discussions about repatriation around New Zealand. It's really just that important first step of connecting those people and the objects."

The exhibition includes a number of innovations. Dr Rāwiri Tinirau led the curation, with river settlement entity Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui as a strategic partner.

Tinirau said consultation with Te Pou Tupua – the human face and voice of Te Awa Tupua (the river) – has brought the voice of the awa and taonga to the exhibition. Whānau and hapū associated with the taonga on display were also consulted, and Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui provided taonga from its archives, he said.

Local company Dalgleish Architects designed the exhibition space, including creating a new typeface for exhibition text and using design elements from river whakairo, kōwhaiwhai and tāniko in floor-



A major new exhibition about the Whanganui River will run for a year at Whanganui Regional Museum before parts of it travel to iwi and hapū in river settlements and at marae. Photo/Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui.

ing for the gallery and museum atrium.

Labrum, who returned home to Whanganui 16 months ago to head the museum, said seeing the new exhibition come to life was exciting.

"We've got a number of firsts. A lot of thought and time has gone into it, and a lot of people have worked on it.

"There's a central spine, which is like the river, there are

objects, taonga around the edge, and we're really lucky to have a special waharoa that you walk through when you go into the exhibition."

He Awa Ora – Living River opens on Monday at the Whanganui Regional Museum. Entry is free.

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

BAYLEYS

NEW LISTING



Ohakune 26 Shannon Street

When size and location count

This super-sized character property has great potential for new owners. Set on a large 1,012sqm (more or less) section with subdivision potential (pending council consent), this four-bedroom ski house has had many a good time had in it!

The large open-plan living, dining and kitchen are the hub of the home with bedrooms going off this practical space. Heated by a large centrally located wood burner - the scene can be set for cosy evenings spent reminiscing the days activities or planning tomorrow's activities in the great outdoors.

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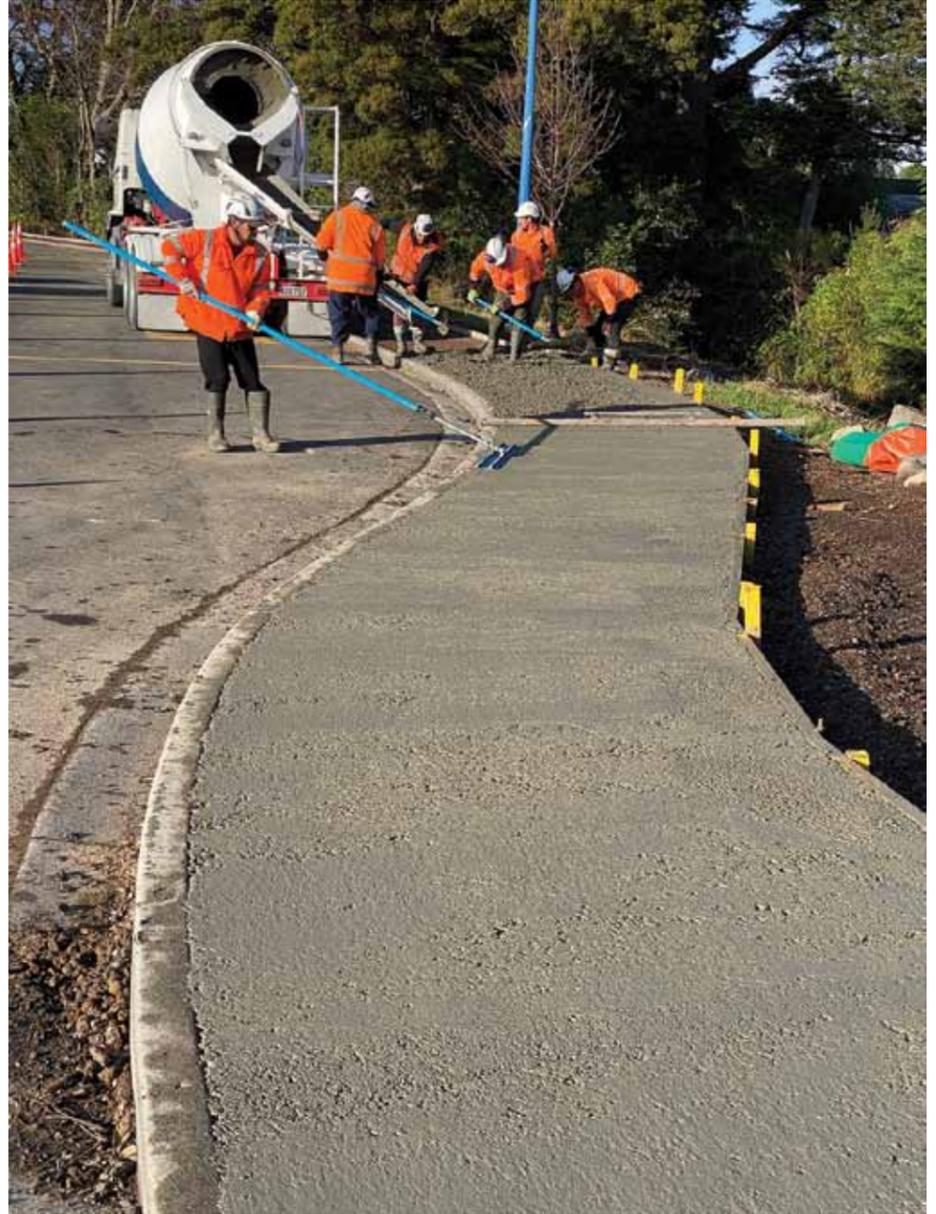
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Mangateitei Stream path takes shape



Contractors have been busy clearing weeds and old boardwalks alongside the Mangateitei Stream in Ohakune, to create an accessible path. The work extends the accessible walkways paths that wind their way from the Ohakune Carrot Park to the Jubilee Park footbridge and now allows for people to complete a loop walk, taking in views of the stream as well as native forest and gardens of the park.

Volunteers brave the frost for Sash & Door Trail work

Volunteers spread metal on a frosty morning on the Marton Sash and Door Trail - West Branch. Despite the chilly start, it was a successful mission to spread 12 cubic metres of gravel along the trail. A fleet of four quad bikes and trailers with an energetic crew did the job. The volunteer group thanks Karl, Mike, Rob, Catherine and Mal who brought their quads and also to Mal with his tractor to load the trailers. "The surfacing of the trail has made a huge improvement by removing many of the bumps from tree roots and old tramline sleepers, which makes for smoother riding and no mud," says supporter Murray Wilson. "There is still a bit more to do."



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RUAPEHU REAP

Takeaways wins people's choice



Sapphire Mapp and Arley Gower, wearing the competition T-shirt, at Toastie Ohakune.

Local takeaway Toastie Ohakune has won the 2022 People's Choice Award in a nationwide competition to find the best toasted sandwich.

The relatively new business to town is also one of the 13 finalists in this year's Great NZ Toastie Takeover, out of 180 entries in the competition run by a pickle company.

Ohakune won the People's Choice award with 1863 votes, followed closely by The Waipiata Country Hotel (South Island) with 1726 votes. Its sister eatery Toastie Picton took away last year's People's Choice Award.

Ohakune's entry is the "Owen's Missus, Who Takes No Schmack". It contains corned beef,

pickled carrots, Pepper & Me 'Schmack Sauce,' McClure's Bread & Butter Pickles, and four cheeses.

Competition criteria required sandwiches to be toasted between two slices of bread and – like all respectable toasties – able to be eaten by hand. The toasted sandwiches also needed to contain cheese (or a vegan substitute) and McClure's Pickles, with all the other ingredients left entirely to the entrants' imaginations.

Each finalist receives a case of McClure's Pickles and dine-in vouchers to be given away via social media this month. The competition's supreme winner will be announced on 27 July.

Catchment collectives aim to improve streams

Catchment collectives are forming around the country, including the Whanganui River area, aiming to improve the water quality of their local streams.

Likeminded catchment groups are popping up all over the country, the movement is led by landowners bringing the communities together, sharing ideas and opening doors for industry support to understand legislative changes.

The leaders of the Otunui, Whanganui West and Retaruke Catchment Groups have come together with the goal to set up a Whanganui Region Catchment Collective Incorporated Society. This would act as an umbrella organisation supporting the co-ordination of existing and formation of new groups, admin, bring in resources and expertise, support engaging with hapu and Iwi, water sampling and biodiversity monitoring. And helping to source funding for practical projects on farms.

MPI has set aside funding up to \$950,000 over three years to get the collective operating to achieve its goals. This budget would be split up amongst existing groups and new groups that form. Upon a comprehensive Project Proposal being accepted by MPI, distribution of funds would pay for the salary and expenses for catchment coordinators,

learning opportunities for landowners, field days and monitoring with 20% set aside for practical "showcase" projects.

Support for this initiative:

- This initiative is first and foremost driven by the landowner members of Otunui, Whanganui West and Retaruke Catchment Groups.

- NZ Landcare Trust is an independent national trust working with landowners, catchment groups and environment groups. The trust has a coordinator Tania Bramley based in Owhango. Tania will be the key contact/interim coordinator to get the society formed and run workshops with groups to assess their goals and objectives to feed into the project proposal to apply for MPI funding due in October 2022. Tania.Bramley@landcare.org.nz

- Ministry of Primary Industries – Extension programme coordinator Alastair Cole has offered to support a catchment collective for the Whanganui.

- Beef + Lamb – Coordinator Maria Shanks offers support with workshops and advice around legislation changes. maria.shanks@beeflambnz.com

If you are interested in learning more about catchment groups in your area or forming a new group please contact: Tania.Bramley@landcare.org.nz 027 416 4547

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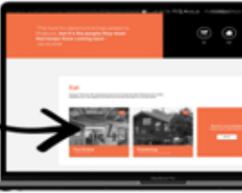
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PUBLIC NOTICES

Maungarongo Marae AGM
 Sunday 31 July, 11am

Agenda:
 Karakia
 Previous Minutes
 Apologies

Reports:
 Financial
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Nominations (due to retirement):
 Chairperson
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Please note Covid 19 protocols must be adhered to.

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Slips close Mangapurua track

Slips and storm damage has seen the Mangapurua Track closed between the Bridge to Nowhere and the Mangapurua Trig, reports the Department of Conservation.

The damage was from very heavy and steady rainfall earlier in June.

Department of Conservation Whanganui operations manager Jim Campbell said the Mangapurua Track had been closed to all users from the Bridge to Nowhere to the Trig due to significant slips and damage.

The Bridge to Nowhere track remains open but Campbell advised people to exercise caution as there was damage to some barriers and slips that needed to be crossed.

He said repairs to the track will be dependent on weather, the availability of resources, staff and contractors and the relative priority of these tracks for DOC.

It was not possible to determine when the track would be repaired at this stage, he said.

Earlier in June, DoC advised the Mangapurua Track would be closed to cyclists from June 7 to October 21.

Campbell said people should refer to the DoC website for updates on the repair status of the track.



Work to improve the Mangapurua Track last year.

Ohakune Squash

Results from Friday's Ruapehu College fundraiser tournament were: Winners and runners up listed. Division one Jayden Bailey and Ngakaira Osborne, division two Emma Rowe and Sarina Budge, division three George Williams and Christiaan Van der Westhuizen, division four Garry Rowe and Campbell Harding, division five Emma Ferguson and Becs Lough, division six Archie Mills and Jamie Bennett, division seven Annabelle Starink and Grace Rowe, division eight Alex Bennett and Travis Hobdoy, division nine Olivia Gray and Sonja Bezuidenhout, division ten Rhys Hobdoy and Sam Barlow, division eleven Hiri Hancy and Sophie Collier, division twelve Lila Dooolan and Talei Phillips.

In the doubles finals division one John and Matt beat Simon and Jayden, in division two Eugene and Jess beat Emma and Harry and in division three Archie and Jamie beat Hinerau and Sam.

Organiser Matt Laurenson thanked all those who travelled to participated and in particular the locals who supported including spot prize donors Thomas Te Kurapa, TCB, Rustic Waiouru, Dave and Rita Hammond, Jeremy and Amy Mott, Jones Bros.

This weekend Ohakune is hosting the Central District F/J grade teams event. Four men's teams and five women's teams of five will battle it out over the weekend to see which club teams will represent Central at the national F grade finals later in September in Ashburton. Ohakune will be competing in both the men's and women's as are Taihape. Other teams are coming from New Plymouth, Hawera and Tararua. The men's final is on Saturday and the women's final is on Sunday. Ohakune is also sending a B grade women's team to Hawera, a C grade men's team to Palmerston North, and a men's and a women's team to the D grades in Dannevirke.

Club captains are working on a new interhouse draw due to start later in July.



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- extensive administration skills including minute taking, report and draft policy writing.
- significant, demonstrated use of Microsoft Office and customised software solutions, including safety management system(s). Damstra experience is desirable.
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Work on National Park Village Community Hall

After many years in the planning the National Park Village community hall received its new roof last week.

The hall is managed by the National Park Village Progressive Association and funding was provided by Ruapehu District Council from its town revitalisation fund.

On Saturday the hall was the venue for gathering the community as a send-off to Warren and Carleen Furner for their Polynesian sailing voyage.

Their eventual landing back in New Zealand will be after following the ancestral route from Raiatea (Hawaiki) following the stars and GPS.

A two-piece band of Warren and Jim and a hangi were features of the day.

NPVPA thanks Martin and his team for the hangi.

Many who attended were reminded of the glory days when the community was bigger and many important social events were held at the hall.



Contractors work on re-roofing the National Park Village community hall last week

Three waters costs a 'red flag' for RDC candidates

By Mark Ebrej

With local body elections coming up in October and in line with all other councils, Ruapehu District Council is required to prepare a pre-election report that gives potential candidates an idea of what they will be letting themselves in for, should they be elected.

The report contains a foreword by chief executive Clive Manley.

"While the local government sector is undergoing a period of significant change we believe that the future role of council in supporting the wellbeing of our communities will be more critical and more valued than ever," states Mr Manley.

"Ruapehu District Council is responsible for delivering a wide range of services that our communities and visitors to the district are reliant on.

"The local roads they drive on, the water they drink, cook and wash with, sewage and storm water systems, rubbish and recycling services, libraries, public buildings and swimming pools, parks and reserves, local regulations, community and economic development and town planning are all provided by Council.

"In the coming financial year we will spend \$44.9 million keeping these services going, and an additional \$33.7 million on providing and improving the district's key assets, funded by \$58.4 million in revenue notably from rates and Government subsidies and grants.

"We are responsible for a complex business directly employing 91 staff supported by specialist partner organisations.

Small rural council

"We are a relatively small rural council with a small rating base, and as such face increasing affordability challenges."

He says that inflation, rising interest rates and debt servicing, increasing construction and depreciation costs, meeting three waters standards with uncertain funding support and skill shortages are stressing the work programme and ability to keep rates in check.

"We have been able to keep rates down by keeping costs under tight control, managing debt servicing and depreciation costs by careful scheduling of major capital projects, and taking full advantage of any Government funding opportunities.

"Government funding assistance for Council's

three waters and land transport has been key to our ability to maintain our work programmes in these areas and limit the financial impact on ratepayers."

Government pays 75% for most roads maintenance and renewal work, while in Three Waters RDC depends on support from various Government funds.

In 2021/2022 Council's \$15.3 million water infrastructure spend (RDC's largest yearly investment to date) was supported by \$5.6 million in Covid-19 recovery funding.

"The end of this funding, however, has required Council to borrow to maintain our Three Waters work programme and with it our debt is forecast to balloon to \$52.9 million, which is uncomfortably close to Council's set limit on debt affordability of \$53.1 million.

Unaffordable

"Under the Three Waters reform proposals new multi-regional water entities take over delivery of all council water services from July 1, 2024. Any Three Waters debt will transfer to the new entity at this time.

"While some on Council disagree with the Government model, all are agreed that our small ratepayer base cannot afford the investment required to meet the new water standards on our own.

"It has been estimated that Ruapehu needs upwards of \$600 million in Three Waters investment and that, without reform, households would be facing water charges rising to around \$10,000 per annum (in today's dollars) over the next 30-40 years.

"The new Water Services Regulator (Taumata Arowai) has made it clear that councils must meet the new water standards, while Government has stated their intention to proceed with the reform proposals.

Future role

"Whatever the final model that is adopted, Council's involvement in Three Waters services delivery will have changed, raising the critical question of our future role.

"Government has provided a \$2.5 billion fund to support councils through the transition and position the sector for the future.

"Of this, \$2 billion is available to invest in the future of local government and community wellbeing while the remaining \$500 million is available

to ensure no council is worse off as a direct result of the reform.

"Ruapehu has been allocated \$16.4 million from the \$2 billion 'better off' component and one of Council's key challenges is to decide with our local iwi and communities how to spend this money.

"The projects Council chooses will help determine our future role and value to our communities.

Roads spend

"Despite the focus on Three Waters, Council's largest area of expenditure continues to be on land transport with \$16.8 million budgeted for capital works in the coming year and another \$16.5 million on operational spending.

"Changing funding priorities within Waka Kotahi NZTA are presenting challenges in maintaining our levels of service on our road network and we have needed to adapt accordingly, working with less funding in some areas and more in others.

"Ruapehu townships are continuing to be supportive of the township revitalisation journey and want to see tangible signs of progress along with the opportunities and associated business investment that comes with it.

"The speed and direction of township revitalisation projects is being determined by each individual township and Council has budgeted almost \$11 million over the first five years of the current 2021/31 Long Term Plan period to support community aspirations.

"This is in anticipation of the first project of the Future Ohakune Plan, phase 3 of Taumarunui revitalisation, the Raetihi Hub and National Park Village Plan.

"We have also increased Pride of Place Funding from \$500,000 to \$1 million over the 10 years of the Long Term Plan.

"Council is working hard to establish fair and equal working relationships with iwi and hapū in our rohe along with other other Māori stakeholder interests such as Ngā Tangata Tiaki o Whanganui (Whanganui River iwi).

"There is a desire to participate in management of their rohe in diverse ways, including as partners, facilitators, investors, advisors and outright managers.

Representation review

"We are committed to ensuring Māori ability to contribute to Council decision-making processes

as per Local Government Act requirements, while allowing Council to meet its statutory obligations, and ensuring equal levels of service to all Ruapehu communities.

"The Representation Review for the upcoming elections has established more opportunities than ever for people to represent the diversity of our amazing district and help shape our future.

"Council will now comprise a mayor with six general ward and three Māori ward councillors, while we now have three Community Boards covering Waimarino-Waiouru, Ōwhango-National Park and Taumarunui-Ōhura.

"New responsibilities for the Community Boards will see them lead advocacy and placemaking discussions with their communities.

Climate change

"Ruapehu is facing the impacts of climate change, which is delivering a combination of threats and opportunities to our key economic activities and way of life.

"The trends we are seeing include increasingly frequent and extreme weather events such as weather bombs and higher prolonged temperatures, with lower river flows and ground water, increased risk of drought and fire, fewer frosts and snowfall but with possible extreme events, risks to biodiversity including new pests and weeds and greater mental health issues.

"These trends are challenging our levels of service in requiring such things as larger culverts (and associated costs) to cope with more extreme flooding.

"While we are working to adapt we believe one of the best ways to assist our communities (to) adapt is by doing all we can to develop community resilience by helping build a strong, viable, diversified economic base together with strong social connections.

"Council's vision is to drive and support the development of safe, prosperous rural communities that are able to thrive and capitalise on our agriculture, business and tourism sectors while sustaining our beautiful environment.

"Whatever may be considered 'traditional' core council services, Ruapehu communities are clear that they want their council to play a broad role in promoting their social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being."

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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