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	Should cats be chipped? P3		Tukino working for opening P4		Desert Road crash P4		Top squash teams win P12
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Volcanic Alert Level drops in time for ski season

The Volcanic Alert Level has been lowered to One at Mt Ruapehu, which will allow Tūroa Ski Area maintenance staff to access the top of the High Noon Express for preparation for opening.

New Crater Lake chemistry data, low volcanic tremor levels and a stable, warm lake temperature indicate a decline in the level of volcanic unrest at Mt Ruapehu, reports Geological & Nuclear Sciences (GNS) duty volcanologist Agnes Mazot.

“In consequence of these, the Volcanic Alert Level is lowered to Level 1 and the Aviation Colour Code changes to Green.”

She said analyses of water samples from Crater Lake (Te Wai ā-moe) have now confirmed there has been little recent chemical interaction between magma (new molten rock) and the hydrothermal system controlling the composition, level, and temperature of the Crater Lake.

The period of strong volcanic tremor, from mid-March to early-June 2022 has declined to near background levels and generally lower gas emission rates are being recorded.

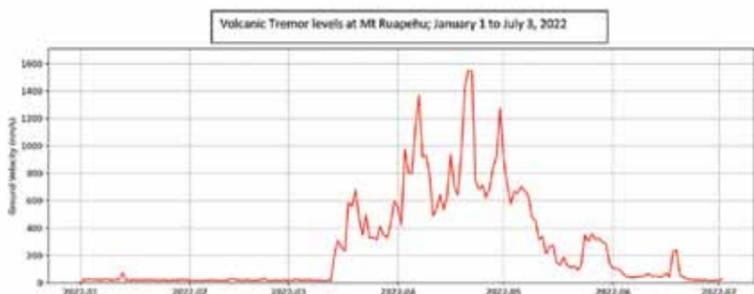
Short-lived pulses of gas are still reaching the surface.

“When taken together these observations are consistent with a decline in volcanic unrest at Mt Ruapehu.”

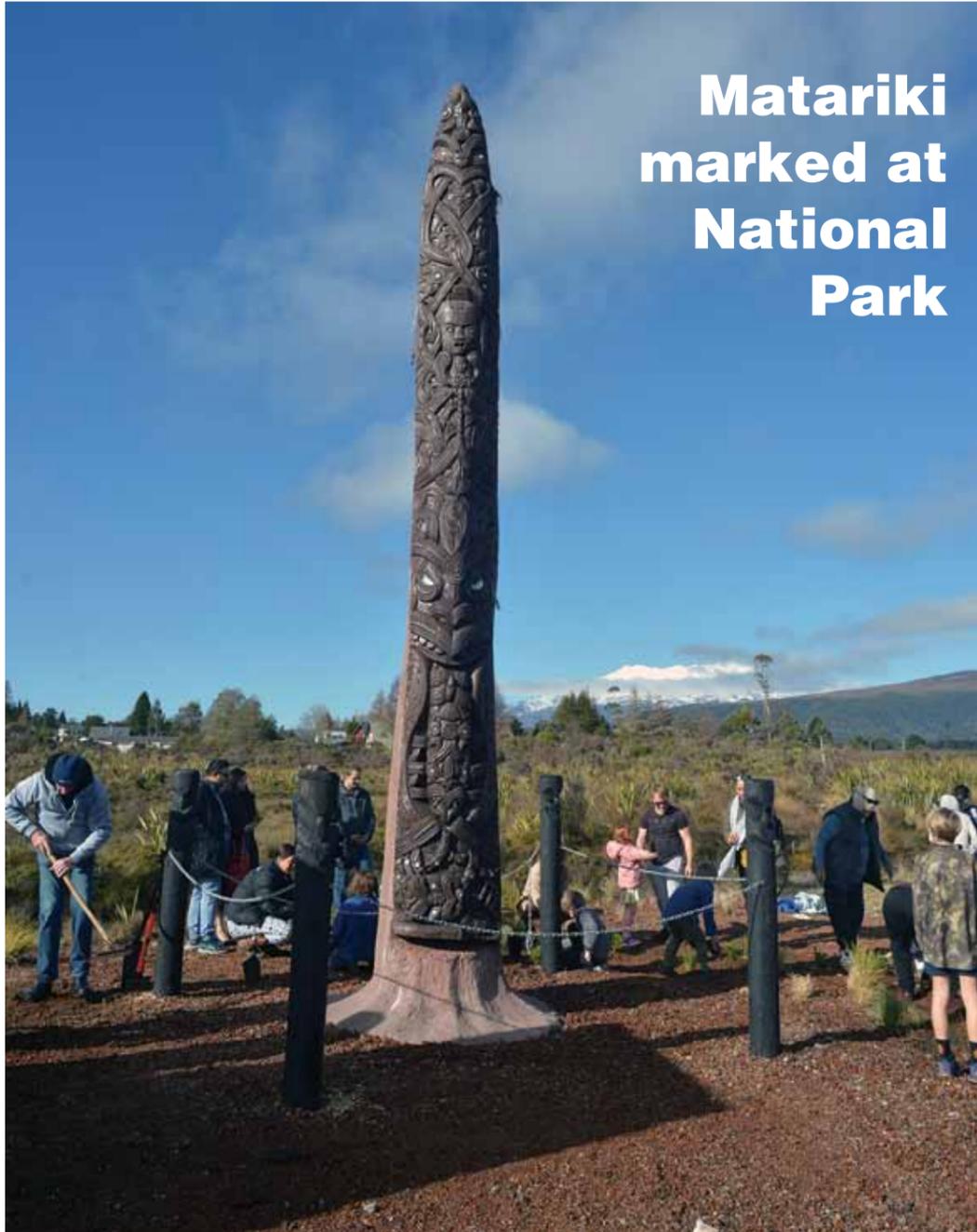
Over the last week, volcanic tremor has remained weak at Mt. Ruapehu. It has now been over 20 days since the last higher tremor levels.

Crater Lake (Te Wai ā-moe) temperature decreased from a high of 40°C in early May to 21°C on 14 June and in the following two weeks recovered to 25°C. The temperature has stabilised or fallen slightly this last week, currently the temperature is

Turn to Page 3



The tremor level at Mt Ruapehu's Crater Lake has dropped in the past week, to levels similar to before the unrest spike that started in March.



Matariki marked at National Park

The pou at National Park was the focus for a Matariki celebration and planting effort on Saturday. See Page 2 for details. Photo: Liz Brooker.

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ALTOGETHER BETTER

What's on around Ruapehu

Mt Ruapehu Ski Field Opens – Tūroa 8 July
 Warren Miller Movie Nights - Turoa Lodge 12,13 & 14 July
 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

CYPRUS TREE

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KINGS BAR & RESTAURANT

3 Rimu St Ohakune Junction Ph: 06 385 8648
 Est in 1913, historic Kings offers an inviting menu by locally renown chefs, a great selection of boutique wines and is the exclusive venue to offer Ruapehu Brewing Company beers on tap. See our Facebook page for what's on. Wednesday – Friday from 4pm and Saturday and Sunday from 2pm.

POWDERKEG

Bottom of the mountain road Ph: 06 385 8888
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Matariki marked at National Park



Children from National Park School dug in to help plant the area around the pou at the Village on Saturday. Photo: Liz Brooker.

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The Waimarino National Park and wider area community came together to reconnect and make new connections for Matariki on Saturday.

Te Manawatia o te Pou Tipua o Tūroa was a Matariki event led by Uenuku Charitable Trust.

Karakia, speeches and kai formed a central part of the time together.

There was also a focus on whakawhanaungatanga and kaitiakitanga with a taiapa being built to protect the space, native planting done and Iwi, tamariki, whānau, locals and manuhiri sharing ideas about seating, landscaping and development of the area further.

Staff at the National Park kura, alongside Sport Whanganui prepared activities for tamariki and their whānau to explore and create mahi toi, get active and have fun together on the day too.

Editor's note: whakawhanaungatanga – process of establishing relationships; kaitiakitanga – guardianship; taiapa – enclosure.

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Is now the time to pick up a chalet?

Property prices are easing right around the country, so is it time to look at an Ohakune winter holiday home?

Quirky A-frames, interesting old school houses and wooden yurts in Ohakune are listing now for less than \$500,000.

Several properties listed for sale in the Ohakune have recently had significant price reductions as sellers adjust their expectations to get their properties sold, reports OneRoof.

Ohakune has an average property value of \$577,000 so is a much more affordable location for a holiday home than other North Island holiday hotspots such as Omaha and the Coromandel.

NZR Ohakune agent Kath Campbell told OneRoof that Ohakune was a “funny market to read” because there was still strong demand for family homes, even as second homes, while chalets – which included those on cross leases, A-frames, unit titles – were not selling as quickly.

Campbell said while the market had flattened, prices had not necessarily dropped.

“We kind of went dead mid-December when the new [CCCFA lending] rules came in and, of course, we’ve got interest rates [rising]. It’s still hard for first-home buyers and people who don’t have a 20% deposit.”

However, as the ski season draws near, out-of-towners less affected by the financing rules have started to look in the area again.

“We are actually getting a little bit busier as we speak. That’s historically what happens here as well. As we get closer to the season and both sides opening we see a pick-up in real estate.”

Her agency has a number of chalets including A-frames for sale, offering buyers a cheaper, low maintenance option.

In Turoa Village, an iconic A-frame is taking enquiries over \$350,000, while a three-bedroom ski house has a price indication of mid-\$400,000s and a two-bedroom chalet is priced at \$390,000.

An entry-level home in Ohakune starts at about \$400,000 – but those willing to travel

a few more kilometres down the road to Raetihi or Rangataua can get much better value for money. Even nearby National Park which feeds into Whakapapa skifield is a cheaper option.

A three bedroom, one bathroom home on 44 Pitt Street in Raetihi is for sale for \$349,000, while a four-bedroom, one-bathroom railway cottage at 43 Railway Row on a similar sized section in Ohakune is taking enquiries over \$680,000.

Several lifestyle blocks have recently sold for around \$900,000 – but very few properties in the area sell for over \$1 million, Campbell said.

Bayleys Ruapehu agent Jenny Dekker said Ohakune was becoming an all-year-round destination and offered good value for money for those looking to buy a holiday home and create memories.

Dekker said those looking at the lower-end of the market could get an A-frame for between \$330,000 and \$360,000 or a stand-alone house in Raetihi for the same price.

House prices in Raetihi and the “up-and-coming” Rangataua are usually cheaper.

In Ohakune, a standard house is between \$500,000 and \$600,000, while those looking at the higher-end of the market could pick up a beautiful, brand-new four-bedroom, two-bathroom home with a mountain view for between \$600,000 and \$700,000.

Dekker said properties priced well are still selling and there are some “quirky” properties to be found at affordable prices.

She is currently selling an older yurt as well as a brand new yurt at 4 Hebe Lane.

Dekker said they are great buys and are “absolutely unique” eco-friendly properties that are surprisingly spacious with impressive mountain views.

She also has an old school house at 26 Shannon Street, which is for sale at \$495,000 and is described as having “super-sized character” on a 1012sqm section.

People who buy in Ohakune love it and want a place where they can make memories for their kids, she said.

Should cats be chipped?



Cats, including well-fed, well-loved moggies, are a big problem for wildlife. Should RDC call for pet cats to be chipped and registered to help control them?

By Mark Ebrey

Should Ruapehu District’s cats be registered and microchipped?

Section 25 of the Ruapehu Bylaw does not allow households to keep more than four cats (older than six months) without a permit.

It also prohibits people from feeding or attracting feral cats to their premises.

These are the strictest provisions Council can implement. However, if it is found that cats pose a severe risk to public health, Council can employ further provisions, but only if there is evidence available that shows that it is necessary.

Some councils require cats to be microchipped and de-sexed (unless they are kept for breeding, or the owner provides a certificate from a veterinarian stating that de-sexing of the cat will adversely affect its health and/or welfare).

Council is considering these provisions as possible options and would like to know readers’ thoughts on them.

If these provisions are adopted, cat owners will be required to microchip and de-sex their cats, as well as register them on the New Zealand Companion Animal register.

Registering cats on this site will allow Council and related cat management services to effectively manage cats in the district.

The cost of microchipping and de-sexing cats may be a barrier to compliance.

Alternatively, cat owners can take their cats to SPCA’s annual ‘Snip and Chip’ event.

This initiative enables cat owners to get their cats de-sexed and microchipped for just \$10 per cat at select vet clinics in the region. The aim of this initiative is to make de-sexing and microchipping accessible.

This cost is set to increase to \$20 per cat in the coming years.

What RDC wants to know in the coming public consultation round is:

(a) Is the current provision, in our existing Bylaw, sufficient in managing the cats in the district?

(b) Tell us why or any other option you would prefer.

(c) Should cats be required to be microchipped?

(d) Tell us why or any other option you would prefer.

(e) Should cats be required to be de-sexed?

(f) Tell us why or any other option you would prefer.

Volcanic Alert Level drops

From Page 1

24°C consistent with heat flow into the lake of about 100MW.

Despite the decline in volcanic unrest the potential for eruptive activity remains. Over the last 2-3 months a magmatic intrusion has occurred inside the volcano, increasing heat and gas flow into the hydrothermal system associated with the Crater Lake.

“Our data indicate that the intrusion has stalled or stopped moving. Whilst this means that the current unrest episode has ended, the presence of recently stalled magma in the volcano suggests that a sudden resumption of activity would be more possible than the last time Ruapehu was at Volcanic Alert Level 1.

“The most likely outcome of the ongoing but weaker unrest is no eruption or minor eruptive activity, confined to the

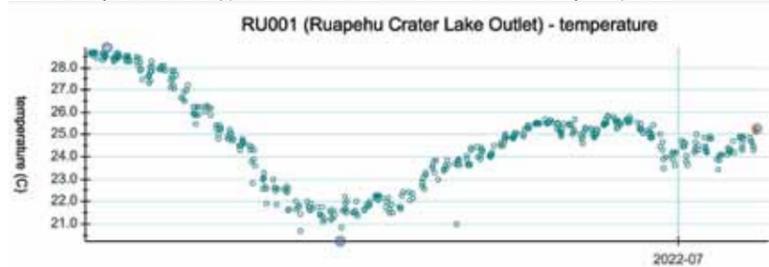
lake basin. If this did occur, it is possible to generate lahars (volcanic mudflows) in the Whangaehu River.”

The next most likely scenario should unrest activity increase again, remains an eruption that impacts the summit plateau with volcanic surges. That event could generate lahars in multiple catchments, like what was seen after the September 2007 eruption.

“An eruption of this size would cause life-threatening hazards on the summit plateau and in valleys impacted by lahars.”

The chance of a prolonged eruptive episode or a larger eruption, with wider ashfall impacts such as occurred in 1995-96, is now similar to before the start of elevated unrest in March 2022.

This plot showing the level of volcanic tremor at Mt. Ruapehu, 2022



CC BY 3.0 NZ GNS Science latest: 25.28 C (2022-07-04) min: 20.22 (2022-06-16) max: 28.90 (2022-06-05)
The Crater Lake temperature is still fluctuating, but is well below the peak of over 40°C.

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Tukino working on opening date

Tukino Ski Area is planning to open around the second week of the school holidays but they're hoping for more snow before then.

"Heaps of work (has) been done to the lodges and the field over the summer," says Lawrence Smithson.

He said 'Kermit', the digger that is used to keep the 4WD access road open, has

been in Ohakune getting repairs to the pins for the massive blade.

Repairs have also been done to the tracks on the groomer and it is ready to be transported up to the ski area.

"Get amped and come ride the wild side – cat skiing is something you wanna tick off," says Lawrence.



Tukino Ski Area, off the Desert Road, is hoping for more snow so that they can open in the second week of the school holidays. Photo supplied.

Desert Road crash



Two people were injured in a crash involving a utility vehicle on the Desert Road on Saturday morning. Motorists were advised to expect delays as emergency services attended the crash, which occurred at around 10.50am. The Greenlea Rescue Helicopter airlifted the two patients to Waikato Hospital for further treatment.

Letters

Water reform savings?

Ratepayers have been told the required investment in three water projects for the Ruapehu District would total in excess of \$600 million and certainly that investment is unaffordable for our small ratepayer base.

However, does this mean we are to believe the new water entity based presumably in a city far away will be taking care of these projects and will make that same \$600 million investment with only modest increases in rates?

It is difficult to see any savings for the ratepayer from a monster untouchable entity. You only need to look back to what the public experienced during the electricity reforms.

Bruce Rollinson

Time cut

The Government has shortened the timeframe for submissions on the Water Services Entity Bill and we write to inform your readers that the window of opportunity in submitting to the Select Committee on that Bill is closing fast. Submissions must be in by 22 July at the latest and cannot be sent via email.

The Ruapehu District Council, on your behalf, has joined other councils from around the country in an organisation called Communities for Local Democracy (C4LD). Information about C4LD's alternative proposal can be found at www.communities4localdemocracy.co.nz

C4LD opposes the current model outlined in this Bill and have created an easy to use submission template. At the top of the home page, look for the 'Demand Better' tab.

The undersigned strongly urge all citizens, who share our opposition to this Bill, to make a submission to the Select Committee and request that you speak in respect of that submission. This is the one chance you have to voice your opposition and be heard by the present government.

Councillors Adie Doyle, Graeme Cosford, Robyn Gram, Lyn Neeson, Karen Ngatai, Rabbit Nottage

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

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

Ruapehu Maori Wardens

Rangi Bristol 027-442-4593

St John

In an emergency call 111

Taumarunui Counselling Services

For confidential counselling in Waimarino phone 07-895-6393

Victim Support Contact Centre

0800 842 846

Waimarino Cancer Society

Co-ordinator 06 348 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

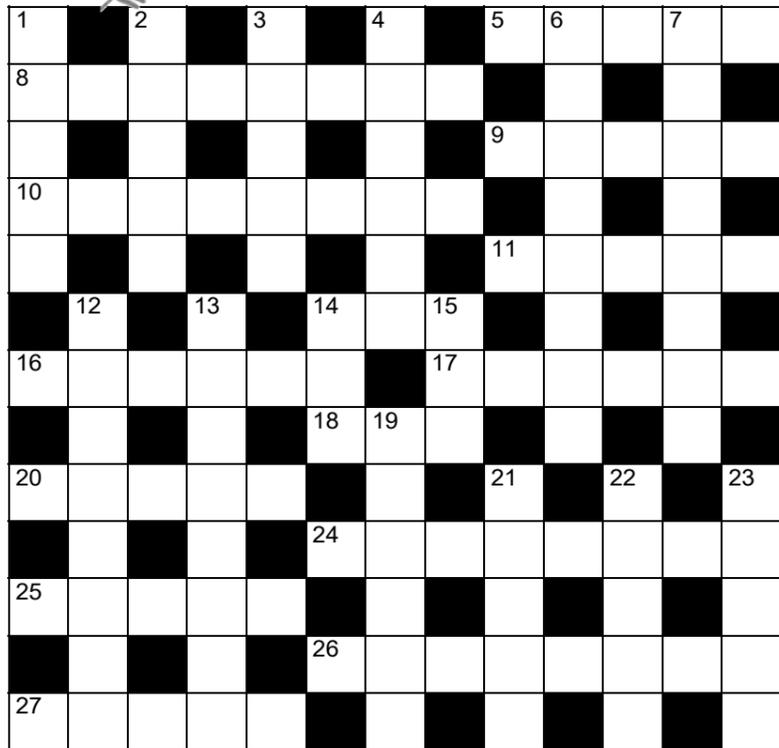
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ACROSS

5. Scratchy (5)
8. Additional hours of work (8)
9. Bore (5)
10. Whale-watching town (8)
11. Intolerant person (5)
14. Put a question (3)
16. NZ company which makes outdoor recreational equipment (6)
17. Our highest mountain (6)
18. New Zealand songbird (3)
20. Cotton twill fabric (5)
24. Fictional NZ farmer, allegedly from Taihape (4,4)
25. Narrow lane (5)
26. Aim towards (4,2,2)
27. Alcohol (colloq) (5)

DOWN

1. Characteristic of author Craig Smith's famous donkey (5)
2. Lukewarm (5)
3. Backless seat (5)
4. Stings (6)
6. Level referring to higher education (8)
7. Only person to have been Prime Minister and Governor-General (8)
12. Station on the Hutt Valley suburban rail line (8)
13. Rock band of the 1970s and 80s (5,3)
14. Party led by David Seymour (3)
15. Food (3)
19. Displace (6)
21. Snake (5)
22. Shrewd (5)
23. Real estate professional (5)

Previous solution

Across: 1. Ancestor, 7. Troll, 8. Liability, 9. AUT, 10. Weta, 11. Ninety, 13. Torbay, 14.

Retort, 17. Orange, 18. Geek, 20. Fez, 22. Unopposed, 23. Tangi, 24. Starters.

Down: 1. Allow, 2. Coaster, 3. Said, 4. Origin, 5. Today, 6. Flat out, 7. Typeset, 12.

Pauanui, 13. Taffeta, 15. Oversee, 16. Egmont, 17. Ozone, 19. Kudos, 21. Spur.

Ruapehu Bulletin

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New name for Whanganui Hospital

District Health Boards across New Zealand were officially disbanded on Friday, with the announcement of the new healthcare system names accompanied by dawn blessings and karakia.

Health New Zealand was gifted the national name Te Whatu Ora.

The Whanganui region is now known as Te Whatu Ora Whanganui.

The Māori Health Authority was gifted the name Te Aka Whai Ora.

The telephone number for Whanganui Hospital remains the same: 06 348 1234.

“While our services will initially remain the same, there will be several changes for our communities to be aware of,” says a HNZ spokesperson.

The WDHB website address remains the same for now: www.wdwb.org.nz.

“Our community will notice changes in how we look and in how we answer our telephone,” says the spokesperson.

“Our website and social media will reflect our new name, colours are different and this may be confusing, we assure you, our teams continue to

do their roles, covering the hospital mahi, telephone and social media in the same way.

“Essentially, we have a new name but it’s business as usual for those seeking healthcare within our region.

“Change of any kind can be hard to get used to, proposed changes directed by the Ministry of Health for our service will be slowly released to allow both staff and our communities time to absorb and implement them.

“The overall goal is to provide an equitable healthcare service for all New Zealanders, with consultation between iwi, health authorities and

government continuing to deliver a new and better way of healthcare.

“As winter continues with its influx of flu’ and continuing concerns with COVID-19 cases, we ask our communities to continue to come to us in the same ways as previously.

“Our goal is a healthy community, with easier access to healthcare.”

Readers’ first point of call for illness should be their GP, or alternatively Healthline has a free, 24/7 number you can call, 0800 611 116, that offers free healthcare advice.

Mixed emotions as health reforms kick in

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporter

The biggest change to New Zealand’s health system in 20 years is underway. The country’s 20 district health boards are gone, replaced by two new entities, Health NZ and the Māori Health Authority.

On the eve of the massive reforms, Local Democracy Reporter Moana Ellis spoke to Russell Simpson, who ended his tenure as chief executive of the Whanganui District Health Board today and tomorrow becomes the interim regional director for one of Health NZ’s four new health regions, responsible for a workforce of around 15,000.

As the new era in healthcare begins, what changes can people expect to see tomorrow?

Under the new system the country is being split into four regions: Northern, Te Manawa Taki, Central and Te Wai Pounamu. Central covers the lower North Island, incorporating six former DHBs: Capital and Coast, Hutt Valley, Wairarapa, Hawke’s Bay, Midcentral and Whanganui.

The general public won’t notice significant change in terms of accessing services. They will still go to the place or point of care that they’ve been accustomed to. Over the next couple of years there will be changes to operating models and accountability structures that deliver against the New Zealand health plan. The health plan is to ensure safe service delivery and sustainability of our future health system.

The transformation that we envisage for Health NZ will take time. Health NZ and the Māori Health Authority (MHA) are working with whānau and people in communities to ensure that we get it right. On Day One, we don’t have all of the solutions and all of the answers. It is going to involve a significant change programme that involves our communities, our whānau and our people.

Will amalgamation result in staffing cuts?

There’s never been an intention to reduce our workforce. The main focus is ensuring that Health NZ and the MHA works collectively at a regional level through co-located teams and embedding regional management arrangements. Each of these arrangements have two distinct arms: commissioning primary and community services, and managing the delivery of local health services.

Everybody will be transferred over to Health

NZ or the MHA; there are no staffing losses. The only impacted people are the chief executives of the district health boards, whose tenure ends, and the boards of the district health boards, which will be disestablished.

In each of the districts there will be teams that will work collectively across the district to improve services and the efficiency of what we do rather than duplicating functions six times.

There will no longer be elected representatives governing the health system. How will the changes affect long-established iwi partnership boards, such as Whanganui DHB’s Hauora-ā-Iwi?

Whilst we won’t have elected members on local boards, we will retain interim district leadership of DHBs, for example Whanganui DHB’s which covers Whanganui, South Taranaki, Ruapehu and Rangitikei. Ongoing local partnerships, engagements and ways of working will remain.

Organisations like Hauora-ā-Iwi will be formed into Iwi Māori Partnership Boards as part of local and regional consumer network advisory co-design, to make sure that local voice is not lost in the transition. With boards being disestablished, that’s an incredibly powerful mechanism to ensure that local voice and connection remains in the new structure.

Iwi Māori Partnership Boards are being established to identify whānau aspirations and ensure they are reflected in localities, priorities and plans. The development, definition and position statement for whānau voice is being led by the MHA through engagement with Māori community. I anticipate that local charters will describe how localities will involve consumers and whānau in the development of their local priorities.

What have been the benefits of the partnership between iwi and the outgoing system?

The relationship Whanganui has had as a district health board with Hauora-ā-Iwi has been extremely beneficial and has honoured the co-design element in strategic direction. Whanganui is one of nine prototypes selected as a new locality network to advise Health NZ and the MHA on health needs identified by their communities – that is testament to the efforts of the Board and Hauora-ā-Iwi. [Up to 80 locality networks are expected to be running by July 2024.]

The partnership has laid the foundation for successful collaborative work in the future. I do know a number of people looked toward Whanganui and what we were doing and most saw it in a really favourable light. It’s pleasing to see that Iwi Māori Partnership Boards will become part of every district in the new system.

How much collaboration will there be between the two new national entities?

There’ll be a lot of collective work with the MHA, not only through the relationships that we will have with our respective peers, but under the legislation there’s expectation that everything we do is done collectively and is co-designed with local Iwi Māori Partnership Boards in service delivery for the future. I’m looking forward to working with the MHA, because I bring the experience from here in Whanganui and it was a positive experience.

What are your immediate aims in your new role?

I feel a responsibility to our community to make sure that we don’t disrupt health services in the next 12-18 months. I feel a sense of responsibility to make sure we represent the best interests of our community in designing the best models of care. And I also feel a huge responsibility to make sure that we improve the equity of service delivery to our respective populations.

I will be looking to leverage off a collective working relationship across the six districts of the Central region to ensure we can maximise opportunities for our communities to access services that perhaps in the previous structures they may have had difficulty accessing.

What are the immediate challenges?

The collective budget is something I have to make sure we can deliver within our means. One of the biggest challenges is that we currently operate under different systems – patient management systems, ICT systems. The main challenge is workforce availability – probably one of the biggest areas of concern that I share with many others.

Working in a regional context will enable us to move and share workforces a bit more freely and we’ll be able to mobilise people from districts that have a lower demand on services to an area that has a higher demand.

I would like to see our workforce flexibility



Russell Simpson. Photo/Supplied.

increase under Health NZ. At the same time, I acknowledge that there are existing contractual obligations and we’ll need to go through a consultative process to ensure that that is in the best interests of not only the patients but also our community and our workforce.

There’s a plan for a new chemotherapy and transfusion unit in Whanganui. Will major capital projects and new services such as these go ahead?

Whanganui will continue with the business case around the chemotherapy and infusion unit to provide services for Whanganui residents in Whanganui, saving those people having to travel to Palmerston North. Lead-in times for these services are significant and include training staff in managing cytotoxic drugs and ensuring we have the infrastructure to support the service.

Today we began running our very first paediatric surgery out of Whanganui. That is as a result of future thinking around the new system. Instead of our children having to travel to Wellington to receive that procedure, we now have a local service where a visiting specialist from Christchurch is here today delivering outpatient clinics and tomorrow is doing a full day of paediatric surgery. That’s an example in the new system of how we’re aiming to improve

Turn to Page 7

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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.

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Rural public transport a 'black hole' – Kirton

Horizon's Regional Councillor Weston Kirton is calling on Central Government to address the "black hole" where public transport should be for remote and rural communities like Ruapehu.

"Decades of Central Government policy has ravaged rural New Zealand's access to public transport, locally and regionally. Not only does this affect access to essential services but, with the cost of living crisis, people in our communities are struggling to cover transportation costs to get to work," says Kirton.

He says all political parties are kicking the can down the road on public transport while claiming they want to address poverty and carbon emissions.

"The half price public transport subsidy does nothing for remote communities that do not have access to public transport options. And arguably Ruapehu communities need it more as they have to travel hours sometimes to access services and work."

Kirton says townships like Taumarunui, Ohakune and Raetihi rely on inter-regional travel such as Intercity buses to access essential services such as health.

"Recent data from Infometrics indicates that inflation is nearly a percent higher in the rural North Island and, alongside higher petrol prices, more expensive food, lower wages and the costs of maintaining a vehicle, cars just aren't viable for many of our families here.

"We need public transport and a regional transport subsidy to support our communities in accessing essential services not in the district and to have affordable options to get to work."

Statistics provided by Dot Loves Data indicate that 93 percent of Ruapehu lives in

Deprivation 8 or higher, with contributing factors being low levels of household income (median of \$61,065), high unemployment (9.24% of working age population are on Jobseeker Support) and low levels of child educational attainment.

Ruapehu also has nationally lower car ownership with 6.83 percent of households not having access to a vehicle, in Central Taumarunui that figure reaches 16 percent.

Dot Loves Data government director Justin Lester says the statistics indicate that without a car in Ruapehu it could be very hard to sustain employment unless there is an ability to carpool or employer provided transport exists.

Kirton says it is imperative to Ruapehu's community and economic wellbeing that local, regional and central government work together swiftly to provide a solution before it becomes impossible for people to afford to go to work.

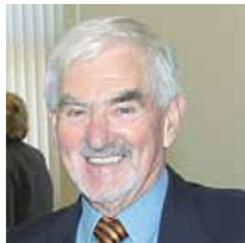
"I've heard stories of employee's struggling to meet the rising costs of petrol and diesel to get to work. Current wages in Ruapehu can't meet the increasing costs, so we need to work collaboratively to get solutions in place so we don't go into economic decline.

"A regional transport subsidy would be a good first step. And then we need to rethink our approach to public transport if we want to address poverty and ensure access to employment for our communities. If we don't, the economic ramifications could be dire."

A 2021 report from AA Motoring says the average costs of running a small petrol vehicle averages at \$13.70 per day or \$5000 per year, including petrol, registration, insurance, WOF and depreciation.

Waimarino community man has died

Deryck Brown, a staunch supporter of Ohakune and the Waimarino area, died at Marlborough Hospice in Blenheim on Wednesday 29 June, in his 93rd year. Mr Brown was a community board member, who served on numerous volunteer community groups and was one of the main men involved in the development of the Mangawhero River Track.



Health reforms kick in

From Page 5

access to various services.

On the eve of this new era of healthcare, how are you feeling?

I have served as chief executive at Whanganui District Health Board for four-and-a-half years. There is sadness that we are winding up as a DHB and this is the end of an era, mixed with the excitement and possibilities of what the health reforms will offer. I would like to warmly thank

the community, all of the iwi across the district, Te Ranga Tupua, Hauora-ā-Iwi, our social providers, our Kaupapa Māori providers, Board members, staff and advisory committees for their support, hard work and dedication.

These strong foundations, forged over more than 20 years, pave the way for the next phase of transforming our health system.

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



Ohakune 26 Shannon Street

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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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Ohakune first in the country for cyclists



LOOKING BACK: 12 years ago this month, then Prime Minister John Key snipped the ribbon to open the first section of the 200-kilometre Mountains to Sea cycle project and the first in the country to be part of the country-wide network of cycle trails. He is pictured with Ruapehu College pupils Hayley van Hees and Justine Vaughan.

TAC world's 'second most popular' hike

Almost fifty thousand hikers can't be wrong – the Tongariro Alpine Crossing is the second-best trail in the world, says the adventure travel company 'Bucket List'.

The company recently ran a survey into the world's most popular walking tracks, with the Tongariro Alpine Crossing clocking up positive feedback from 46,988 hikers, who "left glowing social media posts of their hike".

The company surveyed the volume of visitors, sentiment and social media posts left by happy trampers to compile their list of top tracks.

The day walk through New Zealand's oldest national park and past the North Island's impressive volcanic centre wowed walkers.

Although the blue glacial pools and thermal vents were hits with Instagrammers, it was pipped to the post by a scenic Italian trail.

The Sentiero degli Dei or "Pathway of the Gods" follows the Amalfi Coast for eight sheer kilometres. The length of the walk means the coastal path between the towns of Agerola and Nocelle is easily achievable.

Tongariro was not New Zealand's only entry in the top 10. The world-famous Milford track through Fiordland landed at number 10. However, reviews of the 53.5k track were far more mixed. Sentiment was split at 46 per cent positive, as hikers either raved or bemoaned the "moderate" multi-day trek from Lake Te Anau to Milford Sound.

Getting vertical on the Sky Waka

A new, unique trail run has been added to the Ruapehu Trail Festival – a run up the Whakapapa Ski Area, with the aim to clock up the most vertical ascent as possible in four hours.

The Sky Waka Vertical Challenge sees individuals, pairs, and teams of three attempt to ascend the equivalent of the highest mountains from the seven continents of the world.

The New Zealand first is presented by Victory Events and Mt Ruapehu.

Participants will use pure leg, core, and willpower to ascend the mountain on the Waterfalls Descent Track. They will

then ride down the Sky Waka Gondola to bring them back down to the event base area where they will do it all over again, or for teams of three, tag in a teammate.

Athletes will rack up the metres to their target peak, such as Mt Ruapehu peak (2797m); Mount Elbrus (5642m), or the big guy, the Mount Everest (8850m).

A separate option is to take on the Sky Waka Vertical Challenge – a 400m dash to record the fastest time to scale the 400m of mountain elevation across the 2.5km course.

The other events in the Trail Festival are the Ring of Fire and the Tussock Traverse.

Get ready for the local elections

The Electoral Commission began an enrolment drive last week to make sure people are enrolled for this year's local body elections.

"It's time to check you're enrolled, and that you're listed at the right address, so you're ready to vote in October's local elections," says Ross McPherson, acting national manager, enrolment and community engagement.

"Over the next week, we'll be sending an enrolment update pack to everyone on the electoral roll. That's more than 3.5 million packs.

"Check your details when you receive your pack. If they're correct, you're all set to vote. If anything needs changing, go to vote.nz to update your details online or make the changes on the form and send it back.

"If you don't get a pack by 7 July, it means you're not enrolled or you need

to update your address," says Ross McPherson.

"And if you get a pack that's not addressed to anyone at your house, please send it back."

People can enrol or update their details online at vote.nz using their New Zealand driver licence, New Zealand passport or RealMe verified identity.

The local elections will be held in October for city, district, and regional councils. The elections are run by local councils and are held by postal vote. Voters need to be enrolled at the correct address to receive their voting papers in the mail.

"Councils make decisions that affect our daily lives on things like rates, rubbish collection, and public transport, so it's important that you're enrolled and ready to have your say this October," says Ross McPherson.



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DEATH NOTICE

BROWN; DERYCK MCALPINE: On 29 June 2022, passed away at Marlborough Hospice, Blenheim in his 93rd year. Loved husband of Pamela. Much loved father and father-in-law of Andrea; Campbell and Rachael; and a treasured Poppa D of Alexandra and Olivia. Messages to 11A North St, Redwoodtown, Blenheim 7201 or at www.cloudybay.funerals.co.nz. A celebration of Deryck's life will be held at Springlands Chapel, Cloudy Bay Funeral Services, 15 Boyce Street on Wednesday 6 July at 2pm followed by private cremation. **CLOUDY BAY FUNERAL SERVICES, BLENHEIM F.D.A.N.Z.**

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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RUAPEHU DISTRICT COUNCIL
Ruapehu Bylaw Review 2022

The Ruapehu Bylaw seeks to protect the public from nuisances, minimise the potential for offensive behaviour and to protect and promote public health and safety within the District.
Council is consulting on the following proposed changes to the Ruapehu Bylaw:
(a). Designate the National Park Village 'Park & Ride' as a leashed area
(b). Correct the official map of the National Park Village dog control area (note: this is technically an amendment under the LGA but requires consultation.)
(c). To regulate the number of dogs kept on rural properties.
(d). Prohibit dogs from entering the Ruatiti domain all year round.
(e). Whether the current provision regarding pigs being kept 20 meters away from residential areas is sufficient for dealing with pigs in urban areas.
(f). Whether cat owners should be required to microchip and de-sex their cats, as well as register them on the New Zealand Companion Animal register.
(g). Prohibit Freedom Camping at the car park situated by the Ohakune pump track.
Council would like to hear your opinion on these proposals (or any other aspect of the current Bylaw).
For more information see Council's website ruapehudc.govt.nz or pick up a copy of the Ruapehu bylaw feedback form from the nearest council office.
Key Consultation Dates
- Submission Period 4 July – 29 July 2022
- Hearing 10 August 2022
- Deliberations 31 August 2022
- Decision by Council 21 September 2022
If you have any queries please call Vivita Matanimeke on 07 895 8188 or email consultation@ruapehudc.govt.nz

PUBLIC NOTICES
Section 101, Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012
Kama Holdings 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 **53 Clyde Street, Ohakune** known as **The Mountain Rocks Café & Bar**. The general nature of the business to be conducted under the licence is that of a **Café/Restaurant**. The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is intended to be sold under the licence are: **Monday to Sunday: 8.00 am – 2.00 am the following day.**
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.

MAYOR in WAIMARINO



Mayor Don Cameron is available to meet residents and ratepayers to talk about any issues or concerns at Ruapehu District Council offices in either Ohakune or Raetihi.
Arrangements can be made for people who are unable to travel to either office. To organise an appointment please call either Ohakune (06 385 8364) or Raetihi (06 385 4447).

PUBLIC NOTICES



Raetihi Primary School Parent Election Notice

Raetihi Primary School, School Board of trustees' election
Nominations are invited for the election of five (5) parent representatives to the board of trustees.
A nomination form and a notice calling for nominations will be posted to all eligible voters.
You can nominate another person to stand as a candidate, or you can nominate yourself. Both parts of the form must be signed.
Additional nomination forms can be obtained from the school office.
Nominations close at noon on **3 August 2022** and may be accompanied by a signed candidate statement and photograph.
The voting roll is open for inspection at the school and can be viewed during normal school hours.
There will also be a list of candidates' names, as they come to hand, for inspection at the school.
Voting closes at noon on **7 September 2022.**
Signed Glenda Higginson
Returning Officer



www.ohakune.info
Ohakune... your mountain town
For everything Ohakune
If you would like your business listed on our comprehensive Ohakune site, please contact us
ads@ruapehubulletin.co.nz or 0274 993697

Deadline for all advertising bookings and copy is 5pm Fridays!

Local newspaper advertising is alive and well right here in Ruapehu

There is a lot of talk about the demise of newspapers, following the explosion of on-line media. But local community newspapers like the **Ruapehu Bulletin** reach as many people as they always did. With the cacophony of information through electronic media, our readers like to pick up their **Bulletin** and read about the people and places in their community.

You can by-pass the confusing and eye-watering number of websites (last count, well over half a billion) and talk directly with your customers by advertising each week in the **Ruapehu Bulletin**.

**Your stories,
your people,
your community,
your newspaper,
your place to
reach your
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Home semi-final for Ruapehu



McCarthy's Transport Ruapehu secured a home semi-final after an impressive 30-15 win over Ratana, at Rochfort Park on Saturday. They also locked up the Stihl Shop Wanganui Challenge Shield for the summer. Photo: Glyn Hubbard.

Ohakune Squash wins three grade teams prizes

Ohakune Squash Club had a great weekend with three of their graded teams winning their respective district competitions.

In the women's B grade held in New Plymouth their team beat Kawarua Park 3/2 in the final after Tina Steedman narrowly won the decider 5/11, 11/9, 11/5, 9/11, 11/9.

In the women's D grade held in Dannevirke,

they defeated top seeded Levin 4/1 in the final after previously beating Kawarua Park, Taihape and Dannevirke.

In the F/J grade men's hosted in Ohakune, Ohakune fielded two teams, which reflects the strength of squash currently. The two teams ended up playing each other in the final after both winning their respective pool matches.

Taihape won the F grade women's competition.

All winning teams will now represent Central at the national graded teams final in late September against the other 10 districts. B grades are in Wellington, D grades are in New Plymouth and F grades in Ashburton.

In Ruapehu zone interclub last week Taumarunui had a 2-2 tie with Ohakune at Ohakune but managed a win on games countback for a 9-6 victory.

In the top of the table clash Ruapehu College One had a 3-1 match victory giving them an 11-5 points victory still leaving them two points behind on the overall table with three rounds to go.

Draw for next Tuesday has Taumarunui hosting Turangi, Ruapehu College One hosts Rustic Waio-uru and Ruapehu College Two hosts Ohakune. All matches start at 6:30pm with visitors welcome.



D-Grade winning team, from left, Emma Burnard, Paige Bentley, Laura Double, Emma Haitana, Jade Kendrick.



B-Grade winning team, from left, Tina Steedman, Lauren Wikohika, Emma Rowe, Shae MacLean, Jackie Douglas, Grace Burnard. Photos supplied.

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!

Polly Ingles 027 315 8368 polly@nzs.nz	Kath Campbell 027 333 4381 kath@nzs.nz	Jenna Hovelle 027 361 0167 jenna@nzs.nz
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