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**Little Junction miracles P3** **Power study grants P7** **Manaaki on a roll P8** **Snow dogs tested P12**

# Kirton back in after 20 years

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporter  
 After a 20-year break, Weston Kirton will don the mayoral chain after he headed off three other candidates to lead the Ruapehu District Council.



Progress voter returns on the weekend showed that Weston Kirton has been elected with 1495 votes as the new mayor for Ruapehu, following the retirement of Don Cameron.

Snapping at his heels with 1126 votes was one of two Māori mayoralty candidates, 28-year-old Elijah Pue.

A third contender, Adie Doyle, was polling behind on 901 votes, with Fiona Kahukura Hadley-Chase trailing on 211.

Kirton was elected to the Ruapehu District Council in 1986 and served as mayor from 1995 to 2001 before losing the mayoralty. In 2004, the Taumarunui-born and bred farmer was elected to Horizons Regional Council, and was elected again to Horizons in 2019.

With 90% of votes counted, Pue said there was a “very slim chance” the result would change after 1000 special votes are included, but he was not counting on it.

The progress result does not include some special votes and voting papers returned on Saturday that are still in transit to the processing centre. The final declared result is expected to be available on Thursday.

Pue said in the meantime he was reflecting on “a wonderful” campaign and three “even better” years serving the Ruapehu district and the Waiouru-Waimarino ward as a councillor.

Turn to Page 2

# Urgency for Raetihi temple dollars as site closed



Āpotoro Rēhita Robbie Williams, second right, and Piha Smith, right, erect a barrier fence around the iconic Rātana temple in Raetihi on Friday following the continued deterioration of the over 100-year old building. Photo Liz Brooker.

Fundraising to save the iconic Rātana Whare Whakamoemiti in Raetihi continues under urgency, following the closure of the over 100-year-old building for the safety of all whānau.

The decision to close off the temple has been

a very hard one for Āpotoro Rēhita Robbie Williams to make.

“Because of the continued deterioration of our iconic building and the now extremely unstable condition of the bell tower, it is with great sadness that on Friday we came up to erect a barrier

fence,” Āpotoro Rēhita Robbie Williams said.

“It is not that we are trying to keep people out of the temple, it’s about ensuring the safety of everybody while our iconic building continues to degrade.”

Turn to Page 3

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**BAYLEYS** **ALTOGETHER BETTER**

# Off-grid Kirton late with the news

Ruapehu mayor-elect Weston Kirton was out of the loop as votes were counted, showing him as the winner of the race for the role.

He was performing his duties as a marriage celebrant in a remote area of Hikumutu, which doesn't have mobile phone coverage.

It meant as he helped the couple celebrate their big day, he was one of the last to find out about his victory.

He said he had deliberately left his phone at home so that he wouldn't be interrupted during the ceremony.

"It was great to hear it from my wife first that I had actually been elected," he said.

Kirton campaigned on improving transport and housing in the district and launched a Vibrant Communities Strategy, which aims to diversify tourism and create more jobs for young people.

"In light of the recent job losses on the ski fields, it is more important than ever that Ruapehu diversifies its approach to economic development," he said.

He has also promised to review rates.



Weston Kirton was seen driving around the Ruapehu District in his little red Fiat Bambina campaign car, reconnecting with his past supporters and meeting new ones. He had rebuilt the Bambina from scratch to be his campaign car. Photo: John Chapman.

## Good to be back, says Kirton

Mayor-elect Weston Kirton says he relishes the opportunity to hold the position of Mayor for Ruapehu District again.

"I bring back to Council 20 years of new experiences, knowledge and learning working in the community and regionally," he said in a press statement.

"The mayoral campaign was challenging and hard fought and now we have a fresh start.

"Once we learn final results we can plan ahead with a programme that reflects a united Ruapehu. Great solutions take time, but we have a way forward.

"Obviously housing shortages, community and economic development are in the mix along with address-

ing debt and how we spend Central Government Three Waters allocations.

"In order to deal with such issues, the Council needs to agree on who can fill some of the leadership roles in standing committees that will bring about change and ensure council accountability back to the community.

"I am confident once final election results are announced the new Council will start the process of change, work collaboratively and get on with the hard work ahead of us all.

"Finally, I wish all the newly elected councillors all the best in their respective roles and I personally wish to thank all those who voted for me at the last election."

## Kirton back in after 20 years

From Page 1

"I'm sad and disappointed, but I wish Weston and this council and district all the very, very best. This isn't the end. I'm 28, and there's much more to come. For now, I will take the time to rest, reflect, and think about what's next."

Hadley-Chase also stood for a council seat and was elected as one of three new Māori Ward councillors, along with Kory Wilson and Channey Duncan Turoa Iwikau.

But Pue and Doyle, like Kirton, stood only for the mayoralty.

Ruapehu General Ward councillors Lyn Neeson, Robyn Gram and Rabbit Nottage were re-elected but voting for sitting councillors Janelle Hinch and Viv Hoeta and newcomers Brenda Ralph and John Chapman was too close to call and could

change after votes are counted for Sunday's preliminary results.

The Owhango-National Park Community Board sees Peter Zimmer and Simon O'Neill re-elected, along with Murray Wilson, previously a councillor for the ward. They are joined by new Community Board members Eddie Marsters and Anthony Gurr.

Voting for the Waimarino-Waiouru and Taumarunui-Ohura Community Boards has also been tight with many seats still too close to call. Waimarino-Waiouru incumbent Luigi Hotter has been re-elected along with new member Colin Pakai, and new members Luke Pepper and Aroha Rudkin have been elected to the Taumarunui-Ohura Community Boards.

Public Interest Journalism funded through NZ On Air

## Eating out in the Ruapehu District

### CYPRUS TREE

79 Clyde St, Ohakune Ph: 06 385 8857  
Check out our new summer menu. Kiwi craft beers, boutique wines and cocktails to quench that summer thirst. Playroom for the kids, foosball, air hockey and spaces to keep the kids entertained. Spectacular mountain views. A great place for casual get togethers or special occasions. Contactless takeaways available. Open 7 days, 5pm till late.

### KINGS BAR & RESTAURANT

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

### POWDERKEG

Bottom of the mountain road Ph: 06 385 8888  
The iconic Powderkeg gives you that warm alpine feel with large open fires, hot mulled wine and a great craft beer selection. With over 30 years' commitment to service and good quality free range food. Follow us on instagram @powderkegbar for our weekly deals, parties and giveaways. Great breakfast and delicious brunch cocktails. Open Monday to Friday 7am – 11am and 3pm - late. Saturday & Sunday 7am - late. See you at The Keg.

### UTOPIA CAFÉ

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

2 • RUAPEHU BULLETIN 12 October 2022

## Poor voter turnout for Ruapehu

Major changes to the Ruapehu District Council landscape, with new community boards, a change from separate geographical wards to a general ward and introducing a Māori ward, wasn't enough to increase voter turnout in the 2022 local government election.

In fact turnout was a lot worse, with just 40.63% of potential voters sending in their forms.

This compares to 48.87% in 2019; 46.47% in 2016, and 46.81% in 2013.

There was a total of 2787 votes cast in the Ruapehu District general ward, representing 42.74% of potential voters.

In the Māori ward, 647 votes were cast, representing 33.52% of potential voters on the Māori electoral roll.

## What's on around Ruapehu

Raetihi Country Market 15 October

Ruapehu Schools Cultural Festival 17 November

Raetihi Christmas Parade 10 December

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

# T C B

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# Riley wins Ruapehu Horizons seat

Ohakune's Nikki Riley has won the Ruapehu spot on the Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Council (Horizons Regional Council).

Progressive results released showed Nikki Riley receiving 1662 votes, well ahead of fellow-candidate Gail Gray on 1186.

Horizons electoral officer Craig Grant said the results were only progressive, providing a snapshot of the results so far.

"Approximately 95 per cent of votes have now been counted," says Mr Grant, on Saturday.

"The preliminary results may differ as more votes come in over the weekend. Results will continue to be posted on the Elections page of our website throughout the week until the special votes have been accounted for and a final declaration of results is posted between 13-15 October.

"For the first time, this election we have two Māori constituencies, each with one seat. The Raki Māori seat is held uncontested by Turuhia (Jim) Edmonds."

The Tonga Māori seat is contested by two candidates, with Te Kenehi Teira gaining 1264 votes, well ahead of rival Warwick Gernhoefer on 388.



Nikki Riley.

# Urgency for Raetihi temple dollars as site closed

From Page 1

"We have also put up some hazard signs up and ask whānau to please respect these notices."

Following five years of planning, the project is spade-ready, the renovation can only begin once funds have been raised.

"While we continue our renovation fundraising efforts, we ask all whānau to please respect the temporary closure of Taku Whare Tuatahi in an effort to keep everyone safe," Āpotoro Rēhita Robbie Williams said.

"To date we have raised \$63,141 in cash and gratefully accepted \$193,922 koha for professional services and the mahi provided to us by a number of expert consultants.

"To qualify for Crown partnership funding our community needs to raise at least one third of the project total, currently we need \$201,000 more to reach this first target."

More information about the renovation project is on their website: [teparihaoraetihi.nz](http://teparihaoraetihi.nz) or Facebook and Instagram pages.

The Pāriha have also launched a Givealittle page: [givealittle.co.nz/cause/teparihaoraetihi](http://givealittle.co.nz/cause/teparihaoraetihi).

# Little miracles at the Junction

Chris Waddell at Home, a new shop at the Ohakune Junction, has been busy with her needles knitting for the Little Miracle's Trust.

She is one of dozens of knitters around the country who have been hand-knitting items of clothing for babies in neonatal intensive care units (NICU) around the country.

"I put a post on my Home Ohakune Facebook page and the response has been amazing," says Chris.

"I have had knitting sent from as far away as Wakefield, Huntly and more importantly the local areas."

She said she is getting ready to send the garments away and wants to thank all the knitters from Ohakune, Raetihi, Horopito and Rangataua.



Chris Waddell with dozens of baby clothes for NICUs around New Zealand.

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**Who can apply?** Funding is available for local groups who provide a positive contribution to our community.

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Go to [www.wpi-international.co.nz](http://www.wpi-international.co.nz), click on the 'Links' tab, download a sponsorship application, complete the form, email the completed form (and any questions) to [communitysponsorship@wpinz.com](mailto:communitysponsorship@wpinz.com)

**How do WPI and Ernslaw One decide who will receive sponsorship and to what value?**

We have three main focus areas:

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- Environment

Successful applicants typically receive between \$50 and \$500.

**Applications close: 19 October 2022**

for the period to 30 June 2023. All applicants will be notified by 30 November 2022.

**Community groups who benefited in the last year include:**

- Friends of Taihape Charitable Trust - Waimarino A&P Association
- Raetihi Promotions Charitable Trust (Mangaeturoa Pool & the Wild Food Challenge)
- Taihape Community Development Trust - Tuhiariki Marae Horse Trek - Raetihi Primary School - Ohakune Kindergarten
- Ohakune Playgroup - Waiouru Primary School - Kakatahi Primary School - Nancy Winter Early Childhood Centre
- Taihape Jumping Group - Ruapehu Rugby and Sports Club - Ruapehu Junior Rugby - Waimarino Golf Club Inc
- Turoa Alpine Ski Club Inc (TASCI) - Taihape Fitness Club Inc - Waimarino Shears
- Waiouru Rugby Club - Taihape Gymnastics Club

**Supporting our people, our whānau and our community.**

# RAL in voluntary administration

Ruapehu Alpine Lifts has been placed into voluntary administration, with the Board appointing PwC to manage the company.

Below are press releases from RAL and PwC:

John Fisk and Richard Nacey, of PwC, were appointed voluntary administrators of Ruapehu Alpine Lifts Limited (RAL) on 11 October 2022 following a resolution of the Directors of the Company.

RAL operates the Whakapapa and Tūroa ski fields in the central North Island. The Company currently employs approximately 196 staff across the Whakapapa and Tūroa ski areas.

Voluntary Administrator John Fisk says, "The Company has had a very difficult last three years, with the impact of Covid-19 restrictions, paired with poor weather this season, meaning that the business has been placed under significant cash flow pressure."

"The Directors of RAL have explored a number of options, including a capital raise and a request for additional Crown funding, but have not been able to secure the required level of capital."

"As such, the Directors made the decision to appoint Voluntary Administrators. The Voluntary Administrators will now

continue to trade the business while we look to determine the most appropriate way forward to maximise recoveries for creditors."

The Voluntary Administrators will be preparing an initial report on the financial state of the Company that will be tabled at the first meeting of creditors shortly.

## RAL still operating

"E kore e hekeheke, he kākano rangatira"  
"A noble heritage will never perish"  
- Whakatauki, Māori proverb

Media release from RAL:

With sadness,

After "a very difficult last three years, with the impact of Covid-19 restrictions, paired with poor weather this season, the business (Ruapehu Alpine Lifts, RAL) has been placed under significant cash flow pressure" – John Fisk and Richard Nacey, of PwC, who were today appointed voluntary administrators of RAL, who operate ski areas Whakapapa and Tūroa.

Full statement: <https://bit.ly/ral-update>  
Whakapapa will continue to operate as planned, weather permitting, through to season close, estimated at 24 October. The three T bars – Valley, Knoll, and Far West – will be running, along with the Sky Waka gondola for access and sightseeing.

# Four, or five, new councillors for Ruapehu

The preliminary results for the Ruapehu District election on Monday showed that there will be four new councillors at the table. However, with two councillor candidates just five votes apart, special votes could turn things around and bring in another new councillor.

In the general ward, joining re-elected incumbents Lyn Neeson, Robyn Gram, Rabbit Nottage, Janelle Hinch and Viv Hoeta, will be Brenda Ralph.

But if special votes favour John Chapman, who was only a few votes behind Viv Hoeta, he could be another new name on the council.

Special votes are due to be counted with the final result announced on Thursday.

Either result delivers an even split between north and south, with Rabbit Nottage, Janelle Hinch and Viv Hoeta – or John Chapman – all southern Ruapehu councillors, with Robyn Gram and Brenda Ralph from Taumarunui and Lyn Neeson from Tokirima, near Ohura.

The other new councillors all represent the new Māori Ward. They are Korty Wilson from Ohakune, Taumarunui's Fiona Kahukura Hadley-Chase (who also stood for mayor) and Channey Duncan Turoa Iwikau, also from Taumarunui.

Joining Luigi Hotter and Kay Henare on the Waimarino Waiouru Community Board will be three new board members.

Returning to local government is Colin Pakai, who was Waiouru Ward councillor from 1998 to 2001.

Also joining the Board are Angel Reid and Stu Robinson.

The expanded Owhango-National Park Community Board has Peter Zimmer re-elected, along with Simon O'Neill, with ex-councillor Murray Wilson also elected to the Board.

Joining them will be Eddie Marsters and Anthony Gurr.

New for Ruapehu District from this election is the Taumarunui-Ohura Community Board. Members are Luke Pepper, Aroha Rudkin, Oriwia Wanakore, Molly Jeffries and Sophie Stockbridge.



Channey Iwikau.

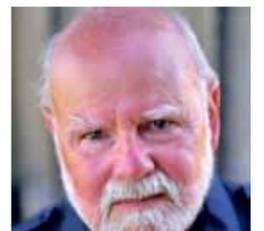


Korty Wilson.



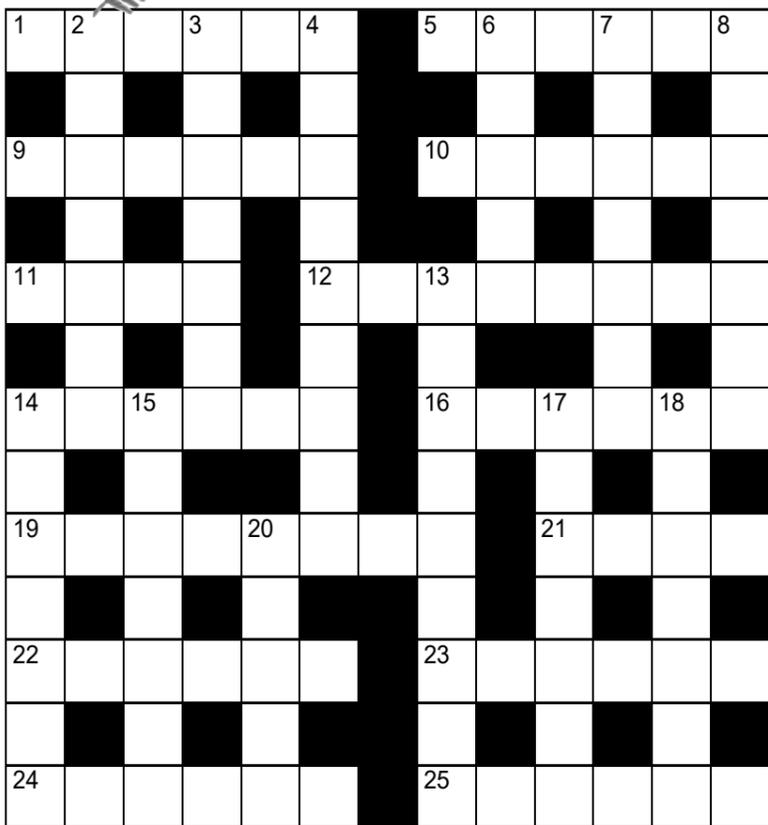
Fiona Hadley-Chase – above.

At right – possible new councillor John Chapman, depending on special votes.



## THE CROSSWORD

1902



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### Across

- 1. An optional extra when you buy a Lotto ticket (6)
- 5. Survey cancelled in 2011 due to the Christchurch earthquakes (6)
- 9. Sport played in the ATP Auckland Open (6)
- 10. Staid (6)
- 11. Native tree formerly called red pine (4)
- 12. Subject of TV show of the 1970s and 80s. *On the Mat* (8)
- 14. Tranquil (6)
- 16. See 2 Down
- 19. Retail category for Barkers and Hallenstein Bros (8)
- 21. Bacteria (4)
- 22. Impotent (6)
- 23. Foolishness (6)
- 24. South Island flightless bird (6)
- 25. Iconic point on the Catlins coast (6)

### Previous solution

**Across:** 1. Train, 4. Shears, 9. Plateau, 10. Lotto, 11. Poet, 12. Entreat, 13. MPI, 14. Tahiti, 16. Muss, 18. Tie, 20. No hoper, 21. Free, 24. Arena, 25. Affable, 26. Skewer, 27. Rally. **Down:** 1. Te Papa, 2. Adage, 3. Need, 5. Half-time, 6. Actress, 7. Scouts, 8. Turei, 13. Misplace, 15. Athlete, 17. Annals, 18. Trial, 19. Merely, 22. Rebel, 23. Afar.

### Down

- 2/16. Internationally renowned NZ fashion designer (7,6)
- 3. Actor and director who plays Frank in the 2021 TVNZ series *The Pact* (3,4)
- 4. In another place (9)
- 6. All square (5)
- 7. Traffic jam (5-2)
- 8. Former Labour Party leader (2011-2013) who worked for the United Nations before and after being an MP (7)
- 13. Outing (9)
- 14. Kiwi poet (3,4)
- 15. Search destructively (7)
- 17. Continuing (7)
- 18. Pain in a hearing organ (7)
- 20. Language of a country of the United Kingdom (5)



Brenda Ralph.

## Letters

### In praise of Fiona

• Political change when it comes, for most of us, is best served in small bite-size chunks. Even when its positive we resist at all costs.

The change Fiona served us with, an increase in Māori representation, was massive.

A change in governance long resisted that has been yearned for in Māoridom has finally come into being.

Half our population that has long felt disenfranchised have suddenly found their voice not only in the Māori Wards but in our community boards as well – Māori candidates have been successful.

Having attended all of the election hui including the ones that were pitched to those on the Māori roll, it's clear that all of the Māori candidates who stood will make excellent elected members and our governance will be improved and strengthened by their presence at the table.

So why praise Fiona? Vision and determination. She organised hui, encouraged people to stand and gave them much needed support.

She took Council to the Local Government Commission – gaining an extra seat for Māori and in doing so increased the Māori vote locally by 20%.

Crucially though, she brought two communities together in governance. An achievement that over time will bring us all closer together and in a much better position to deal with the issues of governance we must all face, together.

Well done Fiona.  
John Chapman

# ‘Embarrassment to democracy’: fix election issues says disappointed Pue

By Moana Ellis, Local Democracy Reporter  
Preliminary results for the mayoralty election in Ruapehu reveal how tight the race has been, with only 150 votes in it.

The latest results show a win for former two-term mayor Weston Kirton, on 1757 votes, with Adie Doyle advancing to 1606, just 151 votes behind.

Saturday’s progress results had Doyle 600 votes behind, with 28-year-old Māori candidate Elijah Pue hard on Kirton’s heels, but last-minute and special votes pushed Doyle ahead.

In the latest count, Pue had 1284 votes and the fourth mayoral candidate, Fiona Kahukura Hadley-Chase, had 285. The final declared result is expected on Thursday.

Questions were raised during the campaign period around whether the late entry of Hadley-Chase to the contest would split the Māori vote.

Pue told Local Democracy Reporting that had been a concern.

“I think this is a lesson for everyone and especially for Māori communities to be strategic in terms of who they place as candidates in different seats but also for us to be strategic in terms of who we’re voting for and where our vote might be best placed [to get] the ideal outcome for us.”

But he said it was clear that other factors such as poor voter turnout impacted the result and would need to be addressed. Education was also needed to improve Māori understanding of the differences between the Māori and the General electoral roll, Pue said.

“The majority of New Zealanders did not vote in the local election and that is an embarrassment to democracy and Aotearoa. In Māori wards, the voter turnout was even worse.

“The government have a lot to answer for. The Minister for Local Government and the



Minister of Justice, both of whom have responsibility for the local election, both really need to start thinking about how we begin to engage our communities more.

“Is our voting system simple enough for people to understand and grasp and know how to use their vote wisely? It is quite complex so we do need to better engage in that system and understand how we can use it to our benefit.”

Ruapehu District Council uses the Single Transferable Vote (STV) electoral system in which voters rank candidates in order of preference, rather than First Past the Post (FPP), in which voters pick their most preferred candidate for each vacancy.

“The whole idea was to ensure that ‘the majority’ weren’t favoured in a voting system. The issue we have with STV is that we haven’t quite seen the evidence that that is the case. Is [the system] favouring the majority communities where the voting population exists, or does it really look to some of the smaller communities like Ohakune and Raetihi, which might not necessarily have a big voting base?”

“Is the system fit for purpose? There’s a system issue around postal voting – should we move to online voting? And it’s optional to vote. All of this needs to be considered in an independent election review.”

Hadley-Chase was elected to the council as one of three new Māori Ward councillors, along with Korty Wilson and Channey Iwikau.

Pue was one of two Māori councillors elected to Ruapehu District Council’s general seats in 2019. Together with Doyle, he now exits local government.



**Elijah Pue – poor voter turnout has him worried about democracy.**

The other Māori councillor Viv Hoeta was excluded from the six general seats in Saturday’s progress results, but edged back in on today’s preliminary count, just five votes ahead of closest challenger John Chapman.

If Hoeta is confirmed in the final results, Ruapehu will be led by a council with a 7-2 female majority, with wāhine Māori claiming three of the seven seats held by women. Four of the council’s nine elected members will be Māori.

Preliminary results show the council will be: Weston Kirton (mayor), Lyn Neeson, Robyn Gram, Rabbit Nottage, Janelle Hinch, Viv Hoeta, and newcomers Brenda Ralph, Korty Wilson, Channey Iwikau and Fiona Kahukura Hadley-Chase.

The contest for 15 Community Board places was also tight, with Māori taking some close-fought seats.

For Waimarino-Waiouru, Luigi Hotter, Colin Pakai, Angel Reid, Kay Henare and Stu Robinson were elected (subject to final count).

For Taumarunui-Ohura, Luke Pepper, Aroha Rudkin, Oriwia Wanakore, Molly Jeffries and Sophie Stockbridge were elected.

Those elected to the Ōwhango-National Park Community Board were Peter Zimmer, Murray Wilson, Eddie Marsters, Simon O’Neill and Anthony Gurr.

*Public Interest Journalism funded through NZ On Air*

## Future Ohakune Project

### The journey so far...

In early 2020 Council funded consultants Boffa Miskell to work with the community on developing a strategic revitalisation plan for Ohakune. This resulted in the development of Future Ohakune Reference Group (made up of representatives from the community, Ngāti Rangī, big and local businesses, farming and market gardeners) to establish some initial ideas and propose some potential objectives, initiatives and projects for the future of Ohakune. The community was asked for their feedback on this initial work over a series of open days in October 2020. This event successfully identified the things that are of the greatest importance to the Ohakune community including a large number of ideas and development opportunities.

**These ideas and opportunities have now been organised into four parallel workstreams being:**



**1**

Quick win projects which includes maintaining and upgrading existing street furniture, planters and pavements.



**2**

The wayfinding and signage project to improve the arrival and visitor experience.



**3**

Ohakune Spatial Plan to inform the future direction for Ohakune’s growth, supported by the transport plan.



**4**

Ohakune Town Centre Revitalisation and priority projects including Christie Park and the Junction.

**...we invite the community to review the progress made and give feedback on key areas!**

**Council Ohakune Chambers, 37 Ayr Street**

**Friday 21 October - 2pm to 5pm**

**Sunday 23 October - 9am to 5pm**



Boffa Miskell



# RUAPEHU Summertime BULLETIN

Priceless newspaper  
Summer 2021-2022



Your guide to  
Ruapehu in  
summer

*The Mountains to Sea mountain bike trail includes the scenic Whanganui River Road.*

Let's tell our visitors what there  
is to do ... in Ruapehu!

Out for the summer School Holidays

Book your space – call Jude 06 385 8532  
or email: [ads@ruapehubulletin.co.nz](mailto:ads@ruapehubulletin.co.nz)

# Three gain power scholarships

Three Year 13 students have each been awarded The Line Company's (TLC) Inspiring Local Minds Scholarships.

One of the students is Ruapehu College's Una Drayton, a regular academic prize winner.

This is the fifth year of TLC's programme designed to support school leavers to pursue tertiary studies or trade training linked to skills required by the electricity distribution business.

Chief executive Mike Fox says there's an ongoing need to develop talent throughout the King Country, Central Plateau and Ruapehu District.

"We're focused on providing support and training programmes to help bring a qualified workforce through in the future, not only for our business, but for the region as well," says Fox.

Each scholarship is worth \$2000 for each year of study for a maximum of three years, going a long way to help local rangatahi on their tertiary education journey.

The other 2023 scholarship recipients are Thomas Verry (Te Kūiti), and Christopher Bailey (Te Kūiti). They were part of a seven-strong short list, from a total pool of 15 applicants.

Ruapehu College head girl, Una Drayton, plans on studying a Bachelor of Engineering with

Honours at the University of Canterbury. Her academic record, involvement in the school council and initiative, which saw her establish a school recycling programme, were contributing factors in her receiving the award.

Una ultimately wants to become a power engineer and showed a great deal of interest in TLC's future for renewable energy resources.

Te Kūiti born Thomas Verry also plans on heading to the University of Canterbury, studying a Bachelor of Commerce with a double major in marketing and economics. He is on-track for NCEA level 3 endorsement with excellence.

Christopher Bailey is an avid sportsman often playing hockey at men's level. The Te Kūiti High School Student plans on studying at the University of Auckland, where he'll enrol in the Bachelor of Engineering programme.

The selection panel included TLC chief executive Mike Fox, Waitomo Energy Services Customer Trust (WESCT) trustee Cathy Prendergast, and TLC customer & community engagement manager Anne Terry.

Cathy Prendergast said WESCT is once again very pleased to be involved in the interview and selection process.

"WESCT take an active interest in the community by supporting TLC initiatives like this," says Prendergast.

"Being on the panel has once again demonstrated the high calibre of students we have in the region. It was a very rewarding experience meeting

so many outstanding school leavers. Their passion for the region and wanting to make a positive difference in the community reflects our own values.

"We will follow their progress with interest and look forward to welcoming them back to the King Country in the not-too-distant future."



From left, Una Drayton, Christopher Bailey, Thomas Verry. Composite photo: TLC.

## Trust cash offered soon

Community groups will be offered a chance to apply for funds from the Ohakune Events Charitable Trust in the coming months.

The Trust is waiting for the final figures from the Ohakune Mountain Mardi Gras, so they can work out how much will be available for the community from the event profits.

"While it wasn't a complete sell out, Mardi Gras was still a very successful and fantastic event with our partners Audiology," says trustee Jayde Lowe.

"The production of the event was amazing, the new stage was incredible and the feedback from stakeholders like emergency services was all very positive."

In the last funds distribution, the trust gave just under \$34,000 to community groups.

They were: Carrot Park - Carrot Car refurbishment; Christmas food appeal - food parcels; Ethical Waste - event bins/recycle stations; McIntosh Dance Company Highland Dance Competition - trophy sponsorship; North Island Primary and Secondary Snowboard Competition 22; Ohakune Fashion Show; Ohakune Inc - summer flags; Ohakune Playgroup - fencing; Raetihi Primary - school camp; TASCII; Waimarino food bank - food parcels, new barbecue and shelving for storage.

There was also a donation to Ethical Waste in

2020 for the outdoor cover at the refuse station.

The funds distribution has a focus on young people, says the Trust.

Ms Lowe explained that some of the profits from the Mardi Gras each year are retained as a buffer, should there be a loss in any one year.

The planned Ohakune Blues and Roots Festival has been postponed to 2023.

"We all really wanted to get it over the line but there were a few different factors that meant we wouldn't have been able to deliver the event we wanted," said Ms Lowe.

"This year hasn't been too kind to the events industry and sadly that included us. That being said, pushing to 2023 gives us more time to be able to get more local collaboration on this event to make it a truly memorable experience for all and showcase just how amazing spring in Ruapehu is."

She said 2022 has been "a bit of a funny year for everyone".

"We've all experienced a few ups and downs so the OECT wants to close out 2022 on a high note.

"We are very excited to be able to get some more funding out to our community thanks to the successful Mardi Gras .... we are finalising the finer details over next few weeks so watch this space."



A reasonably successful 2022 Ohakune Mardi Gras will see funds available for community groups.







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# Manaaki on a basketball roll

Ohakune basketball player Manaaki Bell-Morehu is on a roll with his favourite game.

Manaaki attended three trials during the last school holidays with 40 other children from the Whanganui area.

He is one of 24 kids made it into the Whanganui Representative teams. They now make up an A team and a B team (development team) for the Under 13s Whanganui Boys Basketball team, with Manaaki chosen for the development team as one of the youngest players in the team.

Manaaki is the only boy from the Ohakune area in the Whanganui team.

"The dedication, commitment and sacrifices Manaaki makes to play the sport he loves is really admirable," says his mother Miriama.

Manaaki has been travelling to Whanganui every weekend since 9 July for training with his team.

"He played in his first tournament in Levin and came up against some amazing players from all over the lower North Island. His team had three losses but he came away with a whole new love for the sport and was chosen as player of the tournament for his team."

He is now focused for the next task, which is the AON Under 13 regionals tournament in Napier in the October holidays. The team will have three games, then semi-finals and finals all played over a 4-day tournament.

"Manaaki has recently been named the captain of his U13s team and is ready to take on the opportunity given to him by his coach who truly believes in him," says Miriama.

"The Ruapehu community has continuously supported Manaaki throughout his basketball journey."

Manaaki and his Whanau would like to say "a huge thank you to everyone for the massive support".



Manaaki – a young basketball player from a small town, with a big heart, chasing his dreams.

# Volcanic unrest remains low at Mt Ruapehu

Observational data for Mt Ruapehu indicates the level of volcanic unrest activity remains low, reports the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences Limited (GNS).

"Volcanic tremor levels are at typical background levels, lake chemistry and gas data show no changes, and the lake temperature remains warm," says Brad Scott, duty volcanologist.

The Volcanic Alert Level remains at Level 1 and the Aviation Colour Code remains Green.

He said that over the last three months, the level of volcanic tremor has remained weak at Mt Ruapehu, representing typical background levels.

During the same period, the Crater Lake (Te Wai ā-moe) temperature has decreased from around 26°C in early July to fluctuate between 21 and 25°C in August and September.

Currently the lake temperature is 23°C.

"This is consistent with heat flow into the lake of about 150-200 MW," says Mr Scott.

"Available analyses of water samples from Crater Lake (Te Wai ā-moe) have shown no changes in the lake chemistry.

This indicates that there has been no evidence of chemical interaction between magma (new molten rock) and the hydro-thermal system controlling the composition, level, and temperature of the Crater Lake.

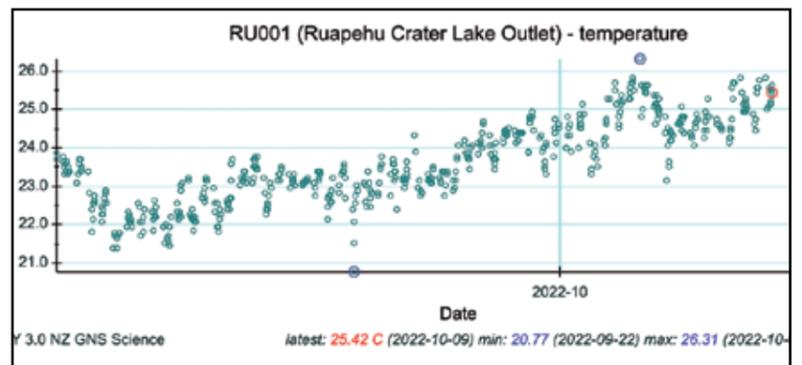
"In summary, all monitoring indicators remain at background levels and the potential for eruptive activity is generally decreasing.

"However, because magma moved to higher levels in the volcano earlier this year and is still present inside the volcano, uncertainty remains around its potential impact on future activity.

"As a result, whilst declining, the likelihood of an eruption at Mt Ruapehu over the next three months still remains higher than it was ... in early 2022."

He said the most likely outcome of the ongoing unrest is no eruption, or minor eruptive activity confined to the lake basin.

"If this did occur, it could possibly generate lahars (volcanic mudflows) in the Whangaehu River. The low levels of volcanic tremor, the Crater Lake chemistry data and a stable Crater Lake temperature are consistent with a low level of volcanic unrest at Mt Ruapehu."



Ruapehu's Crater Lake temperature is constantly fluctuating – currently ranging from 21 to 26°C.



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**DEATH NOTICES**

**NATION, Terril Ann:** Peacefully passed surrounded by family in Whanganui on Saturday 8th October 2022, after a short battle with cancer. Aged 64 years. Loved wife of Allan. Loved Mum of Trudy, Scott and Kristi, Anna (deceased), Cassie and Ross Pui. Loved Grandma of Rachel, Wyatt, Makinli, and Hannah. Special thanks to the team at Whanganui Hospital and the Care Centre at Summerset, Whanganui. A celebration of Terril's life will be held at St John's Anglican Church on Wednesday 12th October 2022 at 11am followed by interment in the Ohakune Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations to Whanganui Hospice would be appreciated and may be left at the service. *Bennetts Taihape Funeral Services* 06 3880452

**IN MEMORIAM**

**KEN SUE:** 5 years ago on 9th October. Like fallen leaves time slips by but loving memories of you will never ever die. Love always, Nancy and the gang.

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

:scott-william: is a non-resident settlor and his Affidavit of Life is available to be viewed on the following website: www.scott-william.com

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

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**ERNSLAW ONE LIMITED**  
**Waimarino Forest**

Ernslaw One Ltd intends to Aerial Spray by helicopter, parts of Waimarino Forest for Weed Control.

Aerial spraying is expected to commence in late October, early November 2022, (actual dates will be weather dependant).

All enquires contact Hayden Whitehead (Waimarino Forestry Manager) 027 808 7611

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**Advisory Notice**  
**Military Exercise**

The public are advised that members of the NZ Defence Force will be conducting an exercise in the Rangataua Forest over the period 26-28 October 2022.

The public are asked to keep clear of any Defence Force personnel in the area over this period.

For any inquiries call 09 296 6800 during normal working hours.

**Waimarino Brass Band AGM**

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**TENDERS**

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6 Ngarimu Street, Ohura	06200 110 01
8 Ngarimu Street, Ohura	06200 110 02

Tender documents are available from Council's website at [www.ruapehudc.govt.nz](http://www.ruapehudc.govt.nz) from Friday 16 September 2022 and are required to be submitted to the offices of Ferguson Bhullar & Scott, being at 45 Miriama Street, Taumarunui 3920 (P O Box 26) Taumarunui 3946 by 4.00pm on Friday 14th October 2022.

Faxed and emailed tenders and associated residential land statement will be accepted before the closing time and deposits **MUST BE RECEIVED** before the closing date.

No late tenders will be accepted.

# They're drinking Ohakune in Finland

There's a new brand of soft drink in Finland, which has a link all the way to Ohakune, the town even inspiring its name.

Matti Kukkonen and his partner Amelie Burkhardt named their kombucha drink "Ohakune" in honour of the town where they came up with the idea of the business.

Amelie says they were on their world travels in 2020, when the Covid situation emerged.

"Very quickly we realised that we can forget about our planned campervan adventure. Lockdown happened fast and we just wanted to find a place to stay put before we would be able to fly back to Finland.

"That brought us to Ohakune where we found an Airbnb and spent over two weeks in lockdown before we finally could get back home."

She says they didn't get to meet many people.

"Nonetheless, Ohakune brought us some tranquillity and time to reflect what to do when returning home so much earlier than planned and with no job waiting.

"We have enjoyed drinking kombucha a lot during our travels and it is not that widespread yet in Finland, so my partner Matti thought about starting his own kombucha company back home.

"And so he did! In honour of where the idea originated it is named Ohakune."

She said they are often asked about the name, which to the Finnish ear sound "very exotic".

They then tell the story and think back on "those days in New Zealand's carrot capital".

They wanted to create "meaningful and joyful taste experiences" with a "bold approach, sometimes breaking the boundaries".



**Matti Kukkonen is brewing kombucha in Finland – and chose to name it 'Ohakune'.**

## Rolling round the Ruapehu gym



**Recently rolling round the Ruapehu Community Gymnasium are, from left: Molly Aitken, Grace Sherrit, Jessica Gamble, Paige Drinkwater, Brooklyn Hovelle and Lucinda Howard. Skating has been growing in popularity since Peter Blakeman brought in the activity for Tuesday nights "It's grown from a handful of people a year ago, into dozens every week and continues to grow," he says, adding that it will be available every week, all year round. Photo supplied.**

## Long distance ride for motorcyclists heads off from Ohakune



**Ohakune was the start and finish point for a weekend distance ride for the Distance Rider club, which saw around 40 bikes and riders as well as some pillion passengers take on the ride. They took on the 'North Island 800', with riders challenged to ride 800km within 12 hours, finishing back in Ohakune. Also on the weekend was the 'North Island 1600', with riders challenged to ride 1600km in 24 hours, also returning to Ohakune, on a "breathtaking new route". "Our events are intended to challenge, enthrall and entertain those who ride in them," says the Club. Photo: Jude Chevin.**

## Impact of the vaccination roll out on Maori to be studied

Whanganui-based health and environment research institute, Te Atawhai o Te Ao has been successful in securing funding from the Ministry of Health to undertake research into the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 and future pandemic responses.

The year-long research project will focus on the experiences and impacts for whānau, hapū and iwi in relation to the vaccination roll out, including vaccine mandates and certificates.

The research project is one of 23 projects awarded of 75 applications throughout the country allocated between \$200,000 and \$500,000 per project. Funding for these projects comes from the COVID-19 health system response and the National Immunisation Programme.

The research projects aim to show how whānau,

communities and the health system responded to the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccine rollout and provide insights into things such as long COVID, childhood immunisation and the pandemic's overall impacts, which will then be used to inform future planning.

"The overall aim of our project is to generate innovative, whānau, hapū, and iwi knowledge in health and well-being research by exploring the experiences and impacts of the vaccination rollout on whānau, hapū, and iwi Māori" said Dr Rāwiri Tinirau, director, Te Atawhai o Te Ao.

"Through interviews, focus groups and surveys with key population groups: rangatahi, hapū, marae, key personnel in the Whanganui and Bay of Plenty DHB regions we hope to identify systemic and implementation improvements for future vac-

ination rollouts and provide actionable solutions and insights tailored to our population" said lead researcher Miriama Cribb.

Te Atawhai o Te Ao will collaborate with Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangī through their Te Tohu Toi Tangata: Bachelor of Humanities programme. Lecturers, Fiona Wiremu and Dr Billie-Jo Pomare are delighted to support Te Atawhai o Te Ao in exploring the experiences and impacts of the vaccination rollout on whānau, hapū, and iwi Māori.

"This aligns to our own research Whanake te Whānau, which is a study of Māori whānau within the Eastern Bay of Plenty and how COVID experiences have adapted/modified the 'pre-COVID' concept of (Māori) "Whānau", thereby adapting

Māori traditions, customs and values."

Alongside the real stories and experiences from whānau Māori, the research team will also undertake an analysis of the data and national modelling of the vaccination rollout. The project will also include comparisons with other Indigenous populations and their experiences.

"It is incredibly important that we produce meaningful, evidence based Kaupapa Māori results of our experiences of the vaccination rollout to help inform this space moving forward. We know that COVID-19 has had a huge impact on our whānau, and our country as a whole; this opportunity allows us to explore what that actually looks like and where we can learn, so we can do better in the future" said Dr Tinirau.

**We endeavour to deliver a Bulletin to your letterbox every Wednesday – but if you are not receiving one, please let us know.**

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# Power crew win multiple awards

A line mechanic squad from a King Country electricity firm has won multiple awards at this year's Connexis Annual Connection.

The Lines Company (TLC) team picked up three awards: Line Mechanic Build; Colin (Bear) McKay Memorial Trophy for Line Mechanic Dismantle; and the Ross Archer Memorial Line Mechanic Safety Award (Wiremu Te Tawhero).

After a two year hiatus due to COVID, distribution company Electra and industry training partner Connexis hosted the 2022 Connexis Annual Connection in Levin during late September. The annual showcase event, the only one in New Zealand, provides a platform for members of the electricity infrastructure sector to display their skills.

The event spanned three days with teams from across the country competing. Tasks were designed to replicate a semi-usual workday for competitors with challenges varying from cable installation to simulated pole top rescues.

The five-person team consisted of Dion Adams, Matthew Tamaira, Brayden Crown, trainee Wiremu Te Tawhero and coach-manager, Tony Gannon.

Acting manager service delivery, Jared Murrell says, "our team had their talent and sportsmanship on full display throughout the week, delivering a high level of workmanship throughout the competition and displaying great support for others during

the event.

"It was really positive to see how the guys conducted themselves and their team spirit. We've received some really encouraging feedback from others who attended the event."

The weather played a leading role in testing crews, as sunny periods at the beginning of the event provided hot competition, whilst heavy showers later tested the teams.

Safety was a key theme, with competing teams beginning each day with a full personal protective equipment (PPE) check. Every day a competitor was selected to conduct the PPE check. Participants would gather around the designated member and check their safety equipment before heading to their stations. 2021 Distribution Trainee of the Year, TLC's Wiremu Te Tawhero ran the check on the second day.

TLC chief executive, Mike Fox, said the event "shines a spotlight on the skills, training, and knowledge of staff within the industry, recognises the work they do each day and rewards their expertise".

"The awards are a true testament to the skillset, training, and mahi the crew put into their trade. The prizes were also a reflection of the leadership and support from our wider team," says Mike Fox.

Line mechanics, cable jointers, and industry stakeholders from around the country will look to make the trip down south as PowerNet is hosting the 2023 Annual Connection in Invercargill.

# Avalanche dogs get the treats



**Lisa Jaggi gives her dog Echo (above) a ride down the slopes at Whakapapa at The North Island Avalanche assessment camp held over the weekend 1-2 October. Their assessment was among 13 sessions done for dogs and handlers, with all teams emerging successful. There were three new novice teams, with two becoming operational. Six teams were re-certified as current operational teams. Below: Phil Couch now has an operational dog 'Whaia' as well as his novice dog, Frankie (pictured below). Organisers thanked skifield staff including ski patrol and grooming departments who provided "the amazing site". Photos: Jane Dunn Photography**



**Award-winning linesmen, from left, Shogun Haami, Mike Fox, Matthew Tamaira, Wiremu Te Tawhero, Dion Adams, Brayden Crown, Tony Gannon, Carl Botha, Jared Murrell.**



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