

New badges in store

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Local farmers send cyclone help P2



Teachers strike for the kids P3



Ohakune court still closed P5

It's Rodeo & Shears time!

Trail Festival finally across the line

After four years of frustrations thanks to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Ring of Fire trail run was back on Saturday.

Organiser Jason Cameron said it's felt like they have "pulled it from the fire", with the last successful event held in 2019.

"It has been the most challenging event in my 20 years of organising events," says Cameron.

"It's been a long time coming, but finally, we have been able to bring New Zealand's toughest alpine ultra, the Ring of Fire, back to Tongariro National Park."

The 2020 event was canned after the pandemic lockdowns kicked in, just one week before the Ring of Fire.

With further lockdowns and border closures, the event was canned in 2021 and 2022.

The organisers decided to create the Ruapehu Trail Festival concept, which would incorporate the Ring of Fire with the Tussock Traverse, to be held during one weekend in 2023.

"What a great way to pool resources and bring a wide range of participants together at the same time."

As well as the Ring of Fire, Saturday offered up a wide range of Tussock Traverse options: a 6km walk or run, 12km walk or run; the Tussock Traverse 21km walk or run; the 33km walk or run.

The trail festival idea was also to include the unique concept race called the Sky Waka Vertical Challenge at Whakapapa on the Friday.

However, the voluntary administration of Ruapehu Alpine Lifts meant Victory

Events had to cancel the vertical event and awards ceremony, which was to be held at the Knoll Ridge Café.

Another curveball was still to come – in early February, the Chateau Tongariro, the base of operations for the Ruapehu Trail Festival, closed its doors.

"The Victory Events crew, now experts in plans A through to Z, got into action securing alternate venues, services, and accommodation providers for their crew," says Cameron.

"Luckily, there is plenty (of accommodation) on offer in the Ruapehu Region and most people found a replacement provider."

He said Ngāti Hikairo built on their support of the event and became hosts of the Ring of Fire awards ceremony on Sunday as well

as the Pōwhiri that opened the event on Friday morning. And Visit Ruapehu pulled out all the stops and gave extra assistance with promoting the event and supporting the organisers.

"Event sponsors stuck by us, local businesses supported us. And now we're here."

Among the finishers late on Saturday night was Donna Boots, who travelled all the way from New York to take part. She had signed up for the 2020 event, then 2021, then 2022.

The Ring of Fire event was designed to attract overseas competitors, but lost around 130 competitors thanks to the pandemic border closures. This year, 32 internationals took part.

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David Haunschmidt set a new course record in the 50km Ring of Fire run on Saturday, adding to his third-place in The Goat, second in the Old Ghost Road Ultra and first in the latest Tarawera 50km run. Event organiser Jason Cameron said the new record was an amazing effort, especially as the course was quite wet and slow. Haunschmidt had also inadvertently added two kilometres to his run when he took a wrong turn and had to double back. Photo: Robert Milne

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Waimarino farmers get stuck in to help fix cyclone damage

A team of Ohakune farmers, builders, engineers and other locals have been getting stuck in to help in the Eskdale areas affected by Cyclone Gabrielle.

Nathaniel Turner from PGG Wrightson said they were approached by local fencer Dave Hammond who spelled out his intentions of forming a cyclone support team.

“So between us we got word around that there was

a local team heading over and asked farmers, growers and locals if they were able to help out in anyway,” says Nathaniel.

“We were blown away with the amount of donations for materials to support the crew heading over.

On Friday 3 March, a team of eight people did a run over to the Eskdale area to get materials into the affected

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Authorised by Debbie Ngarewa - Packer, Parliament Buildings, Wellington



Pictured are just some of the efforts put in to help out in the cyclone-ravaged areas in the Hawkes Bay by local farmers. Photos supplied.



areas, with around half of them working for four days.

The others stayed on and were due back on Friday.

An additional team of seven people headed over on Friday.

“Farmers were blown away with emotion when we turned up with a support crew, backed up with trucks full of donated materials.

“Ohakune locals also took small diggers to assist with access to bridges, driveways and houses.

“They also managed to get stuck in with some shearing along the way.”

Eating out in the
Ruapehu District

CYPRUS TREE

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

Ph: 06 385 8857

KINGS BAR & RESTAURANT

3 Rimu St Ohakune Junction
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. Wednesdays – Friday from 4pm and Saturday and Sunday from 2pm.

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The iconic Powderkeg – with a great craft beer and wine selection. With over 30 years' commitment to service and good quality free range food. Follow us on instagram @powderkegbar for our weekly deals, parties and giveaways. Great breakfast and delicious brunch cocktails in the Matterhorn, Monday to Friday 7am – 10am and 7am – 10.30am Saturday & Sunday. The Powderkeg is open everyday, from 4pm – late on weekdays and 3pm – late on weekends.

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Teachers' strike 'is for the kids'

Waimarino teachers are joining the nation-wide strike this Thursday, unless negotiations with the Government advance before then.

In the meantime, the local New Zealand Education Institute (NZEI) representative Robyn Wilson wants people to know that the teachers are taking this action for the sake of the children that they teach.

While rates of pay is part of their grievance, the main issue is working conditions – including class sizes, which in turn affects the teaching that they can provide for their pupils.

Ruapehu NZEI members met in Waiouru on Thursday 2 March, with primary, kindergarten and area schoolteachers attending.

"During the paid union meeting ... there was

an overwhelming concern and a strong push for the student-to-teacher ratios to change," says Miss Wilson.

"That message came across the board from primary, kindergarten and area schoolteachers. Teachers noted that a lot of the key issues they had raised at the last meeting had been presented with no offer, and this key issue was one of them, which was highly disappointing.

"Improving teacher to student ratios will make the biggest change for improvement for tamariki," says Miss Wilson.

She says they need smaller class ratios.

"Increased levels of behavioural issues are taking up a lot of teachers' time and we are working hard to not send students home because we want

them to be present and succeed.

"The downside of this is that there are a lot of children that are in the classrooms that are then missing out. We need the time to provide access for all learners to be able to learn and have many quality learning opportunities."

Resources

She said they need more resources in classrooms, such as teacher aides.

"This will help with the increasing and diverse academic and behavioural needs that teachers are currently catering for."

She said they also need a better government recording system, saying there are currently no 'red flags' to highlight needs for students that enter new schools.

"Students need to be tracked throughout their school life. This is to ensure that teachers are instantly aware of any needs and can address these immediately, putting specialist measures in place upon their enrolment."

She said pay is an issue as the government "has seriously undervalued our profession".

She says the pay increase has not tracked with the cost of living, with the allowance not keeping up with the cost of living?

"This is a concerning downward trend.

"With a shortage of teachers, what would be the drawback for students to study education and enter our profession? Especially if they could earn a liveable salary either teaching overseas or within an alternate profession?"

National Park steps up for flood fundraiser

A fundraiser auction, arranged and hosted by Schnapps Bar, a National Park Village institution popular with locals and visitors alike, has raised \$32,397 for those affected by the devastation caused by Cyclone Gabrielle in Hawkes Bay.

Of the money raised, \$20,000 has already been donated to Mike King's I am Hope charity organisation, which is supporting those affected within the Hawke's Bay region by providing counselling services to all who need it.

"There is lots more in the kitty to assist projects, but we all know the legend Mike King will get things happening," says Schnapps Bar owner Spud Crosse.

The auction took place at Schnapps Bar on Sunday, 26 February with a wide range of goods and services donated by local businesses and individuals going under the hammer.

On offer was a range of items accommodation, adventure and activity packages donated by operators based in National Park, Whakapapa, Erua and Raurimu. These included Amy Jade's Coffee Cart, Blue Mountain Adventure Centre, National Park Service Station & Four Square, Mountain Heights Lodge, Plateau Lodge, Ruapehu Alpine Lifts, Ski Biz – The Alpine Centre, Tongariro Crossing Lodge and TNT Pataka Food Truck.

Organisations from further afield who also donated items included Bidfood Rotorua, Blue Duck Station, Blue Hill Café, Bradley Gardens, Bradley Livestock,

Camp Epic Timber Trail, Forgotten World Adventures, Jailhouse Ridge, Home Spot Taumarunui, Landcorp Farming, Louisa Muir Horse Dentist, Lion Breweries, Muzza Photography, Opus Fresh, Otamapouri Motors, Roquette Restaurant Taupo, Silver Fern Farms, Taupo Tandem Skydiving, The Bistro Taupo, The Nail Place, Toyota Feilding, and TPP Contracting.

Items donated included firewood, artworks, IT services, beauty treatments, tyres, meats, a signed Crusaders rugby jersey, and an axe signed by world champion woodsman Jack Jordan.

Schnapps Bar hosted a similar event in 2020 to raise relief funds for the Hawke's Bay droughts raising \$10,873.

Spud said that 949 days after doing that fundraiser, "our little community has really stepped up again raising \$32,397 for the people in Hawke's Bay".

"Well done to everyone involved – all the awesome people who turned up on the night who chipped in and bought something, and those who donated items for the auction."

Online auction

The opportunity to support the fundraiser is continuing, with an online auction. "We have some great items to be listed online including amazing adventure, tourism and accommodation packages and we have set our target at raising \$50,000."

The Schnapps Bar Facebook page has updates on the online auction and future donations.



Ohakune Primary School staff are among those planning to strike on Thursday, calling for better conditions for the sake of the children they teach.



The National Park Village fundraiser has supported the 'I Am Hope' charity, run by Mike King (at centre).

**RUAPEHU**

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DESTINATION MANAGEMENT PLAN LAUNCH

Raetihi Marae
48 Raetihi Ohakune Road

10.30am Pōwhiri
11.30am Launch
12.15pm Hākari [lunch]
Conclude at 2.00pm

Monday 27th March, 2023
RSVP: info@visitruapehu.com



Waimarino Shears grows future of the industry

The Waimarino Shears committee held a shearing course over the weekend with the main goal to grow and develop the skills of up-and-coming shearers and woolhandlers and to encourage them to join the shearing industry.

Over 30 people gathered to take part in the course, which taught wool-industry specific skills in fitness, health and nutrition, financial preparedness, animal handling, grinding, gear maintenance and shearing itself. The course was held at Ātīhau-Whanganui Incorporation's Te Pā Station, 20km south of Raetihi.

Waimarino Shears president Turi Edmonds said the kaupapa for the course was to grow the future of the industry, while also encouraging young people to enter into the shearing show on Saturday 18 March in Raetihi.

"Having 30 students keen to learn how to shear tells me that our industry is in great hands. Historically, shearing shows and shearing courses like ours have suffered low attendance, particularly in the lower grades such as novice, junior and intermediate. A number of shearing shows just like ours have been challenged by low numbers and so today's course is about addressing that.

"More importantly though, it's about getting rangatahi (youth) involved in the industry. With the hope that the skills they learn today can be applied in the real world – when one day perhaps they land a full-time job in the shearing shed.

"While the roles in the shearing shed can be picked up on the job, today was purely about learning, without the added pressure of making a tally – or shearing a large number of sheep in a small amount of time. Being able to take the time to learn from the experts provides a great platform for the students to learn some hands-on skills."

The course was held at Te Pā Station, which Mr Edmonds says was special in a number of ways.

"Te Pā Station has become a popular shearing venue, having hosted world-record setting events in the past. To welcome up and coming shearers to this place is therefore quite a treat. It's also important to acknowledge the whakapapa (genealogy) connection a large majority of today's students have to their ancestral lands – all of this made for a spectacular day. Thanks to Jimmy Doolan and the wider Ātīhau team at Te Pā for their support.

Support

"The success of our show is, in a large part, thanks to the support we get from our partners. Ātīhau-Whanganui Incorporation are a key partner and we thank them for their ongoing support of our show, and indeed our industry. Thanks too to Sport NZ for their support.

"I'm excited by the future of our industry and know that students from today's course are now equipped with the skills necessary to grow sustainable employment outcomes for them and their whanau," concluded Mr Edmonds.

The Waimarino Shears is being held at the Raetihi Showgrounds on Saturday 18th March 2023. For more information visit www.waimarinoshears.com.



Students and committee at Te Pa Station. Photo supplied.

Mardi Gras funds available to support community groups

Thanks to another successful Mardi Gras in 2022, The Ohakune Events Charitable Trust (OECT) have a pool of funds available to sponsor local community groups, charities and events in the Waimarino area.

Applications are open now and close on Wednesday 29 March 5pm.

The Trust has \$20,000 available this round and plan to release a second round later in the year.

"The OECT funding aims to support projects that benefit the wider community and promote the growth of the Ruapehu region, highlighting the resources available in our beautiful district," says Trust chair Jayde Lowe.

"This could be from helping support a fundraiser to seed funding an event."

She said the OECT will look at the outcomes presented in event and project applications and how they will benefit the community with a focus on: community/ whānau wellbeing; community/cultural identity; supporting young people; educational, vocational or recreational activities and courses; tourism in Ohakune and Waimarino area; providing employment to local residents; conservation."

The Trust has already sponsored some events this year – The Kid, the Waimarino A&P Show and the Wild Food Challenge.

"We were really excited to be able to support these fantastic events and are looking forward to supporting our community and local events further with funding generated from the Mardi Gras.

"We would like to encourage anyone who has a project or event that fits within our scope to get in touch via email."

See Classifieds for details.

THE CROSSWORD 1961


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- ©THE PUZZLE COMPANY
- Across**
5. Silly or eccentric (inf) (5)
8. NZ reality show subtitled 'Redemption' in 2022 (3,5)
9. Type of coffee (5)
10. Go sightseeing or take a roundabout route (colloq) (4,4)
11. Wild (5)
14. Inquire (3)
16. Dutchman, born 1603, whose name is on multiple South Island locations (6)
17. World's most southerly active volcano (6)
18. Signature work of a graffiti artist (3)
20. Hit hard (5)
24. Blameless (8)
25. Formal gathering place in Māori culture (5)
26. John Logan _____, politician who donated Cornwall Park to Auckland (8)
27. Snow sport proponent (5)
- Down**
1. Nation, country (5)
2. Irritating (5)
3. Fabric (5)
4. Youth organisation that began in NZ around 1908 (6)
6. Meter showing distance travelled (8)
7. The Tui brewery at Mangatānoka is on the outskirts of this town (8)
12. Queue of traffic (8)
13. Cut off (8)
14. Colony insect (3)
15. Beer barrel (3)
19. Yearly (6)
21. ACC payment (colloq) (5)
22. Sir Ed Hillary's son (5)
23. Coral island (5)

Previous solution

Across: 7. Waiata, 8. Gather, 10. Lanolin, 11. Aotea, 12. East, 13. Cocky, 17. Whare, 18. Whio, 22. Clout, 23. Coaster, 24. Annual, 25. Debunk.

Down: 1. Swelter, 2. Witness, 3. Atoll, 4. Hawaiiki, 5. White, 6. Bream, 9. Incorrect, 14. Chateau, 15. Shotgun, 16. Moeraki, 19. Scrap, 20. Bound, 21. Caver.

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POWER OUTAGE FOR TAIHAPE, WAIOURU AND SURROUNDING AREAS

SUNDAY 19 MARCH 2023, 9:00am–4:00pm

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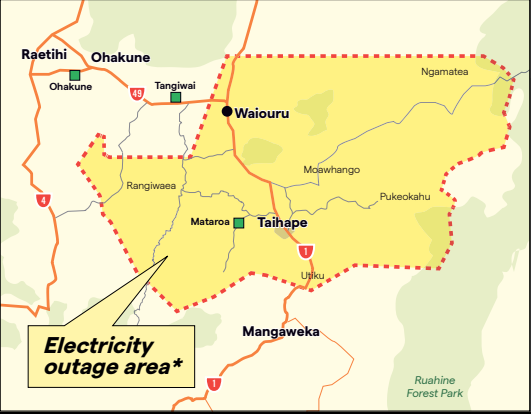
Transpower the owner and operator of the National Grid and Powerco who connect homes and businesses in this region are undertaking regular scheduled maintenance at the Mataroa Substation and work on its connecting lines. Unfortunately, this maintenance cannot be undertaken while the substation is in service.

Transpower would like to advise residents in the **Taihape, Waiouru and surrounding areas** that a power outage is required on:

Sunday 19 March 2023 from 9:00am – 4:00pm

The areas likely to be affected by the power outage are shown on the adjacent map. We recognise that there is never an ideal time for consumers to be without electricity and apologise for any inconvenience this power outage may cause. We have worked to find a time with Powerco that is least inconvenient.

For further information, please contact communications@transpower.co.nz or phone 04 590 7000. For information on whether your property is affected, please call your retailer with your customer number.



Electricity outage area*

* The areas affected by the power outage shown on the map are illustrative only. You will be notified by your retailer if your power is affected.

PREPARING FOR THE POWER OUTAGE

1. If you are reliant on electricity for medical support equipment, please contact your medical provider for advice.
2. Turn off all electronic appliances at the wall (microwaves, TVs, DVDs, computers etc).
3. Lift and store enough water from storage tanks before the power goes off.
4. If you are on shift work, fill up your petrol tank the night before – remember pumps and eftpos won't work.
5. While the power is off, treat all power lines and electrical wiring as being live at all times as it could be restored earlier than planned.

TPRB815323

Still no Ohakune court six months on

BY LEIGHTON KEITH, OPEN JUSTICE MULTIMEDIA JOURNALIST
Ruapehu's mayor Weston Kirton is warning other small communities they could lose their access to justice without warning or consultation, following the closure of Ohakune's courthouse six months ago.

The Ohakune District Court hearing centre, which services the southern Ruapehu District, shut suddenly on 16 September 2022, leaving the district's residents with a long road to travel to get justice.

At the time Ministry of Justice acting chief operating officer Andrea King said the "temporary" closure was due to the risk level for operating courts exceeding the acceptable standard.

King said risks identified included substandard or non-compliant facilities, insufficient custodial facilities, the risk of injury and the estimated cost to upgrade the premises to a fit-for-purpose state was several million dollars.

Mystery still surrounds the future of the facility and the Ministry of Justice has repeatedly missed deadlines for requests about where the process is at.

Ruapehu mayor Weston Kirton said retaining the facility was vital.

"The people are saying that they want it still in the core of our community so it addresses some of the social issues," Kirton said.

"I think that the courts should revisit the whole saga and find a way to keep it in the community, whether that's finding the money to fund the required upgrade or looking at other options to allow people continued access to justice."

Kirton said he feared the closure would result in people being detained in custody when it was avoidable, due to a lack of public transport, ever-increasing fuel cost and inflation, and found it distressing to learn it began happening almost immediately the courthouse closed.

"It's demeaning and unnecessary because the facilities have been dropped, I think we can do better."

He said the Taumarunui Courthouse had been refurbished "at great cost", but was increasingly unable to open due to a lack of staff.

The situation should serve as a warning to other rural New Zealand communities, which were the backbone of the country, Kirton said, and they could find themselves stripped of access to justice without warning.

"I'm very protective of rural New Zealand not getting our fair share; we are not getting a good deal with public transport and now the justice system."

Whanganui lawyer Anna Brosnahan advised the ministry, mere months after the closure, the criminal defence bar was opposed to the move and the flow-on effects already being experienced.

"The main basis for this is the obvious issues that it will have in terms of access to justice for defendants, victims and their support people," Brosnahan said in an email.

"When people are unable to access the court at Ohakune and subsequently arrested they are fronted at Whanganui District Court, which is already under-resourced for judicial hearing time."

Brosnahan went on to highlight the practical implications of moving cases to Taihape, a 112km round trip for those due to appear, which included 50 per cent of arrest cases heard the following day in Whanganui as a direct result of the closure.

One defendant, arrested on a warrant after failing to appear in Taihape due to having no way of getting there, was bailed after spending a night in custody but another had to spend six days behind bars, despite police not opposing bail, before being able to be released, she said.

"If the closure is permanent then these issues will be exacerbated."

"As it stands we have trouble getting matters before a judge within an acceptable time frame in Whanganui for bail applications. Adding Ohakune arrests into the equation means further delays in access to justice for both Whanganui and Ohakune defendants."

Less than a month later a teenager, who could not get to Taihape for his appearance, was arrested and held in custody overnight to appear in Whanganui the following

day, but then had to spend 18 days behind bars before a bail hearing in front of a judge could be arranged.

Brosnahan said in her view the conse-

quences were not acceptable and if the Ohakune facility had been operating the defendants would not have been held in

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Ruapehu's mayor Weston Kirton.

Jordan beats Wynyard for National timber title

King Country farmer Jack Jordan has beaten Jason Wynyard and nine other competitors to win the weekend's New Zealand Stihl Timbersports Men's National Championship.

Jordan – who won the same title two years ago – won five out of the six wood-chopping and wood-sawing disciplines for a convincing victory and will now go on to represent New Zealand at the Stihl Timbersports World Championships in Germany later this year. Jack's older brother, Shane Jordan, finished third.

Jack Jordan – a former Taranaki Bull's

lock – capped off a great couple of days with Saturday's result having earlier (Friday evening) also been awarded the NZ Rural Sports Person of the Year Supreme Award.

Jason Wynyard – 9 times World Stihl Timbersports Champion – was also honoured with a Lifetime Legacy to Rural Sports award at the same ceremony as part of the NZ Rural Games event in Palmerston North this weekend that also hosted the NZ Stihl Timbersports National Champs for Women and Rookies (Under 21's).



Jack Jordan in winning timbersports style. Photo supplied.

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Milking 400 cows producing up to 150,000kgMS and running all replacement stock on a low-cost system. The offering includes five titles and is well serviced with a range of farm buildings including a 40 aside herringbone shed with ACR's, and multiple large implement sheds. The main home, set in attractive grounds, offers four bedrooms, two lounges and two bathrooms, with a tidy three-bedroom cottage for farm staff or holiday accommodation.

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Auction (unless sold prior) 2pm, Fri 21 Apr 2023
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View by appointment

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Chisholm on tour for rural mental health

TV presenter turned sheep and beef farmer, Matt Chisholm, is bringing his Time Out Tour to Taumarunui this April in his role as ambassador for the Rural Support Trust.

Matt signed on as the Trust's inaugural ambassador last year and has been on a nationwide tour talking about mental wellness and resilience.

On Tuesday 4 April he will be hosted by the Ruapehu and Whanganui Rural Support Trust for the event – "a perfect chance to get off the farm".

Tickets are free but registrations are essential, say organisers.

Chisholm has shared openly about his mental health struggles. Through the tour, he has been talking about his personal experiences and how he found a way through.

"This Tour is about giving people in our rural communities the confidence to talk to each other about what they're going through. We want to remind people that they're not alone. When things get tough, we can lose sight of those around us who can relate to our own struggles and help us find a way forward," says Linda Mackinder from the Support Trust.

"We are seeing evidence that Matt's tour is helping. After each event, people are reaching out to the Rural Support Trust and other like-minded



Matt Chisholm heads to Taumarunui for the Rural Support Trust Time Out Tour on Tuesday 4 April at the Eels Rugby Club Rooms, Cherry Grove Road, Taumarunui.

organisations for support. As Matt tours other parts of the country, we hope more people are inspired and feel confident about reaching out for help."

Chisholm's battles are documented in *Imposter*, a book he published last

year, and documentaries *Like a Man* and *Man Enough*, both supported by the Mental Health Foundation.

See advertisement this issue for details or go to the Rural Support Trust website to secure a seat. www.rural-support.org.nz.



Git yerself along to the Waimarino rodeo



Rex Church rides 'Little Black' for 71pts to win the Open Bareback contest recently. Photo: Stephen Mowbray.

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We're proud to be supporting the Waimarino Rodeo & Shears!

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Last year's Waimarino Rodeo was the most successful yet, after two years of Covid 19 disruption, and the Club is lining up to build on that success on the weekend.

Last year's Rodeo saw a record number of entrants – 204 – with perfect weather, both during and leading up to the two-day event, helping to make the arena perfect for the rodeo.

As of Tuesday, the numbers were up even more – with 260 entries although some are yet to be confirmed.

Organisers report that the arena is in great condition and all the planning for a great event is done.

Neville Clark is the commentator for the event, returning to the arena to keep the spectators – from seasoned rodeo watchers



Matt Chisholm has signed on as Ambassador for the Rural Support Trust

and he's back for 2023 on a nationwide tour talking to rural communities about mental wellbeing. With the support of the regional Rural Support Trusts across New Zealand and our proud partners, we are looking forward to bringing Matt to Taumarunui.

Date: Tuesday 4 April 2023

Time: 6:00pm Doors open with a light dinner to start

Venue: Eels Rugby Club Rooms, Cherry Grove Road, Taumarunui

Tickets are limited, please RSVP for catering purposes. Cash bar available.

Get your tickets at rural-support.org.nz/Time-Out-Tour



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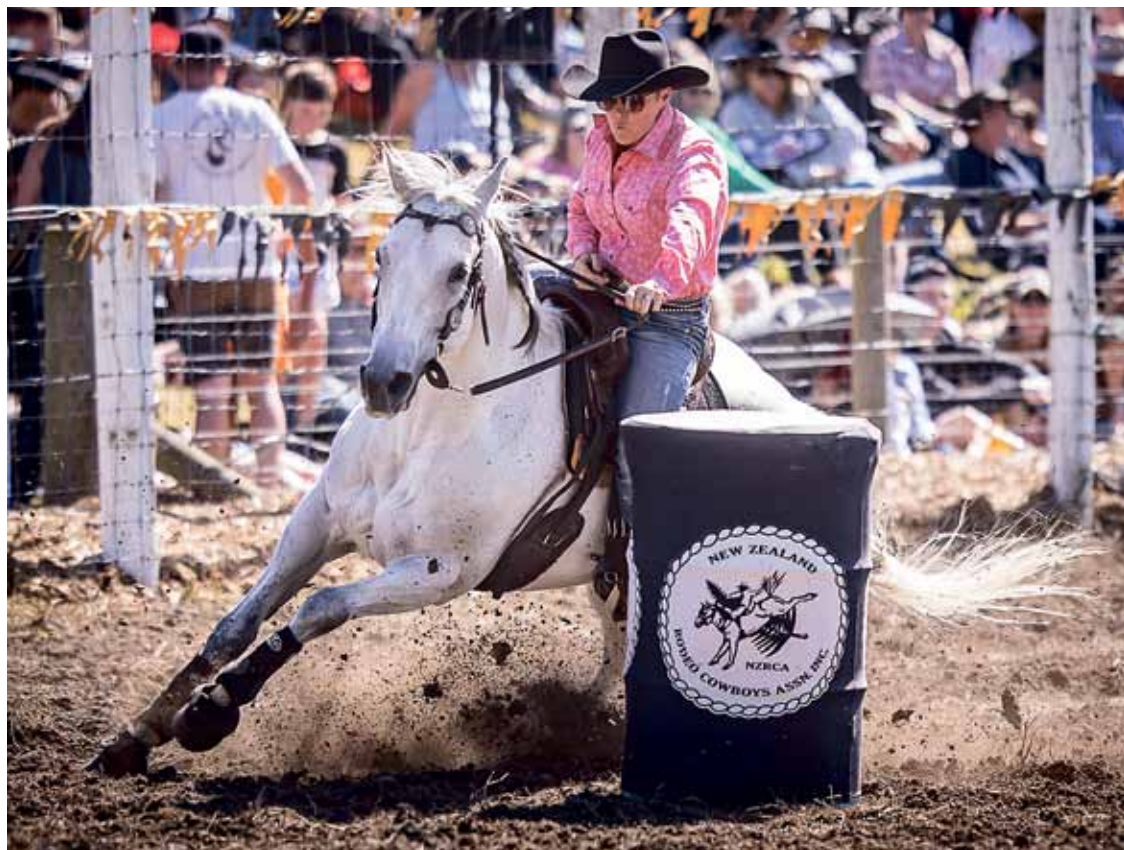
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GET READY FOR THE ACTION

WAIMARINO RODEO

17TH 18TH 19TH MARCH 2023
RAETIHI SHOWGROUNDS



ABOVE: Jen Atkinson, Barrel Race Champion for the 2022-2023 season, will be competing on Saturday. **Photo: Stephen Mowbray.**
LEFT: Aaron Chuch Jnr gets off 'Bud' to flank his young steer on his way to winning the Rope and Tie title and the All Round Champion cowboy title. **Photo: Stephen Mowbray.**

to first-timers – up to date with the action.

Last year was the 70th Jubilee for the Waimarino Rodeo, and the Saturday was their 100th rodeo. The second day of competing on Sunday, is actually a separate rodeo – a change that was made 30 years ago, making last year's Sunday's rodeo the Club's 101st.

A women's event added in recent years will be back – the 2nd division break-away roping, as well as the junior section in this competition.

New Zealand champion barrel racer Jen Atkinson will be among the many competitors who will be back this year.

"Waimarino Rodeo has always been a favourite of mine," says Jen.

"Having the Rodeo run over two days is a great chance to catch up with our rodeo whanau and support this wonderful community.

"Being one of the first rodeos of the new season, it makes for some exciting competition as everyone vies for those all-important first points on the board.

"I have been competing at this rodeo since I was a kid and now it's pretty special to have my daughter Brooke competing here too," says Jen.

"I'm looking forward to competing at my first Waimarino Rodeo on my

horse Methven and catching up with all my friends," said Brooke Atkinson.

Rylee Ward is another fan of the Waimarino Rodeo.

"I like going to the Waimarino Rodeo because

it's my mum's home town so we always have a place to stay and it's a two-day rodeo, which gives us cowboys n cowgirls more of an opportunity to put on a good show for the crowd."

GET READY FOR THE ACTION

WAIMARINO RODEO

PROGRAMME

18 & 19 March 2023
8am start

- TEAM ROPING - 1st Split
- ROPE & TIE - 1st Split
- STEER WRESTLING - 1st Split
- TEAM ROPING - 2nd Split
- 2nd DIVISION BAREBACK
- 2nd DIVISION SADDLE BRONC
- 2nd DIVISION BARREL RACE
- JUNIOR BARREL RACE
- 2nd DIVISION BULL RIDE
- JUNIOR STEER RIDE
- NOVICE STEER RIDE
- 2nd DIVISION BREAKAWAY ROPING
- JUNIOR BREAKAWAY ROPING
- OPEN BULL RIDE - 1st Split

LUNCH BREAK - GRAND ENTRY

- OPEN BAREBACK
- ROPE & TIE - 2nd Split
- OPEN SADDLE BRONC
- OPEN BARREL RACE
- STEER WRESTLING - 2nd Split
- TEAM ROPING - 3rd Split
- OPEN BULL RIDE - 2nd Split

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GET READY FOR THE ACTION

WAIMARINO RODEO

17TH 18TH 19TH MARCH 2023
RAETIHI SHOWGROUNDS

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the gym This advert is proudly sponsored by The Gym Ohakune **the gym**

Rescue chopper staffer epitome of Women’s Day contributions

International Women’s Day last week was perfect time to show appreciation and recognise the important contributions women have made to the world, especially female crew members of the Greenlea Rescue Helicopter for their dedication to helping save lives, every day.

Libbie shares an insight into a day in her life as a rescue helicopter crewman and some of the achievements she has made so far.

Libbie has been working onboard the local Rescue Helicopter for almost four years. Beforehand, she had worked in a lot of different roles, such as a barista and bunjy jump master.

“I decided to join as a volunteer with St John Ambulance and really loved working on the ambulance and being there for people. But I later found that I loved working at heights and in the outdoors and thought it would be the perfect job for me.”

Libbie’s role includes her being responsible for checking the aircraft for security prior to any flight. Depending on the mission, her duties can include, assisting the pilot in navigation, operating the hoist and/or assisting the critical care paramedic with unstable patient treatment.

Libbie is proud to be able to help those in need during what is often the darkest time of their life. She is passionate about making a difference and being able to support people where she can. However, she also knows the importance of taking care of



Rescue chopper crew member Libbie loves working at heights.

herself and making time for her friends and family and sees this as an important way to recharge. “I like routine, it helps me to manage. I have the same routine when finishing up a shift for the day and the same when I go home. When you’ve had a long day, I like to focus on all the good things. Take the dogs for a walk. They need a walk every day no matter what has gone on and walks help a lot. I also go out for lunch a bit with my daughter for sushi. It’s a place called Victoria’s – we are called regulars.”

Libbie can be proud of the incredible impact she has made on hundreds of lives, and we should continue to celebrate the success of these women and the incredible work they do every day on your rescue helicopters.

The Greenlea Rescue Helicopter relies on donations. Donate to Greenlea Rescue Helicopter crew at <https://give.rescue.org.nz/>

College kids help out high and low

Eye on Ruapehu College, contributed by staff and students

A group of Ruapehu College Year 9 pupils helped out on the Mangawhero River Track in Ohakune on Thursday, weeding around some recently-planted native shrubs and trees, as well as cutting some broom.

The Year 9 Taiao (earth) group blends together the subject of outdoor education with science and social sciences to strengthen thier understanding of the environment.

Last week they were learning about kaitiakitanga and how weeds and pests are impacting the taiao.

They joined Jon King, who has been caring for

the Mangawhero River Track since the late 1990s, and Clodagh Costello from Project Tongariro, to release some native plants and learn about the challenges of restoration and the invasive weeds like broom, which are a major problem on the track.

Ring of Fire help

A group of Ruapehu College students helped out on the Ring of Fire trail run around Mt Ruapehu on Saturday morning.

The students stayed in the Massey Hut on Friday night and worked from 5am to 11:30am in the cold, cloudy and drizzly morning and “were amazing help to the runners”, said Amber Bergman.



ABOVE: students help out on the Mangawhero River Track. BELOW: students were on the job for the Fing of Fire trail run.



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Ohakune Mardi Gras date set

Ohakune Events Charitable Trust has announced the date for the 2023 Ohakune Mountain Mardi Gras, with the event set to run on Saturday 24 June.

The Trust said other key public announcement dates will be: lineup - Wednesday 22 March, and ticket sales starting Wednesday 29 March.

SITUATIONS VACANT



Nancy Winter Early Childhood Centre has a **permanent position for a Registered ECE Teacher**

Enquiries to Brenda Burnard
(nancywintercentre@xtra.co.nz)
for timeline and more information.



KAIMAHI HE PUNA ORA (NON-CLINICAL ROLE) WAIMARINO

The Nga Kaitataki Hauora group of providers have formed an exciting service for wahine with pepi under 3 and whanau who are faced with alcohol and drug issues.

The role will be based in Raetihi but will cover the Waimarino area.

Are you someone that is innovative, creative, and experienced in Matauranga Maori and prepared to work differently in supporting mama, pepi and whanau who do not have strong relationships with services in the community? You will work one-on-one with mama and their whanau, as well as developing and facilitating matauranga Maori and well-being wananga.

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The following are essential:

- Police screening and drug testing
- Covid-19 vaccinations
- Full driver's license

A job description can be sent out on request.
Closes: Thursday 30th March 2023 at 5pm.

To apply for the position please send your CV to:

Service Manager
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Julie McDonnell
Email: petm@tpkh.co.nz

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

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Taumarunui-Ōhura Community Board

6:00pm, Thursday 6 April 2023
Council Chambers, Huia Street, Taumarunui

Ōwhango-National Park Community Board

6:30pm, Tuesday 18 April 2023
Owhango Hall, 2157 State Highway 4, Owhango

MEETING CONTACTS

Ruapehu District Council 07 895 8188

Taumarunui-Ōhura Community Board

Luke Pepper, Chairperson 027 329 2849

Ōwhango-National Park Community Board

Anthony Gurr, Chairperson 021 487 742

Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board

John (Luigi) Hotter, Chairperson 027 274 2616

Risk & Assurance Committee

Philip Jones, Chairperson 027 499 9408



Ohakune Inc. AGM

Friday 17 March, AGM @ 6pm at Kings

To be followed @ 7pm with a chance to meet our project leaders and hear their project plans in 2023.

There will be an update on Mountains to Sea trails

Nibbles provided. All welcome.

RSVP Secretary ohakune2000inc@gmail.com

www.ohakune.info

PUBLIC NOTICES



OECT Community Funding Applications Open

Wednesday 8 March - Wednesday 29 March.

The Ohakune Events Charitable Trust (OECT) Community Fund is a dedicated fund for sponsoring local community roopu/ groups in Ohakune and surrounding towns.

The OECT funding aims to support projects that benefit the wider community and promote the growth of the Ruapehu region, highlighting the resources available in our beautiful district. This could be from helping support a fundraiser to seed funding an event.

For more information and a copy of the application form, or if you have any questions – please contact The Ohakune Events Charitable Trust via the email - oectnz@gmail.com



Shareholder Farm Tour 2023

Nau mai, Haere mai.
Saturday 25th March 2023.

Āti Hau-Whanganui Incorporation would like to welcome all shareholders and whānau to the 2023 farm tour. This year we will be visiting the Hapuawhenua (Dairy) and Tohunga Farms.

There will be a pōwhiri at 9:00am at Mangamingi Marae, followed by morning tea. After morning tea we will begin our farm tour and will finish back at Mangamingi Marae for lunch.

Buses:

- Whanganui buses will depart Pakaitore at 7:30am. Please meet at Pakaitore at 7am, ready to leave at 7.30am.
- Raetihi/Ohakune buses will depart Mangamingi Marae 10am.

Registrations close
Wednesday 22nd March 2023.

To register, please contact the Whanganui office on 06 3487213 or email office@atihau.com



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Contact us here at the *Bulletin* on 06-385-8532.

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

It's important that we get your ad booking and copy in on time, so that we have time to check it, plan the best layout and work on producing a better paper for you!

From Page 1

Results

Fastest local woman in the 50km ultra was Rachel Cashin, in 8:36:55, taking 9th place.



Glen Chesterman was first man home in the 73km ultra, in 9:31:26. He had taken time out from work on cyclone recovery on his Hawkes Bay farm.



Courtney Pratt ran 73km in 11:45:15 – the fastest female time.



New York runner Donna Boots is congratulated by her niece and event organiser Jason Cameron, at left.



Ohakune runner Johan Bergman was fastest local in the 73km, in 10:27:41 to finish in 5th place. Credit: Photos4sale.co.nz.



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Still time to be counted in the Census

Over 3.3 million people have completed their Individual Form to date, of which 91 percent of the returned Individual Forms have been online, and nine percent have been paper forms.

This week, Stats NZ will start processing more paper forms, as those completed on or after Census Day start to arrive by mail.

Census Day is when every person in Aotearoa New Zealand is asked to complete the five-yearly census so the needs of communities across the country are met by up-to-date information and data. The census collection has been extended in areas impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle to 1 June 2023.

Census collectors have started visiting households to follow up with people who have not yet completed their census forms.

Census collectors visiting households will be able to

provide the support people may need to complete their census forms.

If people do not want to wait until a census collector to visit, they can call 0800 CENSUS for help to complete their census forms. There is a range of useful information, including in different languages and accessible formats, on the census website at www.census.govt.nz.

A reminder letter was to arrive in letterboxes from Tuesday, 14 March 2023.

The reminder letter has been mailed to over 490,000 households.

It takes a few days to organise a mailout of this magnitude. Some people may receive the reminder and have already completed their census forms. In this case they do not need to do anything else, and this is clearly laid out in the letter.

The reminder letter arriving this week is the first of a

number planned to go out over the next few weeks.

People who missed out on completing their census forms by Census Day, Tuesday 7 March 2023, still have time to take part and be counted, Stats NZ said.

There's still time this week "and be-

yond", Stats NZ have said, although they haven't announced a final cut-off date.

Census Day is when every person in Aotearoa New Zealand is asked to complete the five-yearly census so the needs of communities across the country are met by up-to-date information and data.

No Ohakune court

From Page 5

custody or detained.

"Ultimately my view is that the Ohakune Court needs to remain open to enable and facilitate access to justice.

"As yet I have not been made aware of any realistic default options that would work effectively or serve the Ohakune and surrounding communities."

Barrister Jamie Waugh said he believed the closure was not going to be temporary and was already creating crucial issues for those in the low socio-economic community to access justice.

"It just goes dark essentially, there's no courthouse there," Waugh said.

Lawyer Richard Leith described the closure as disappointing.

"I think that in the interests of justice, we should continue to have a court in Ohakune," Leith said.

An Official Information Act request made by NZME to the Ministry of Justice in mid-December, which has a 20 working day response time, has gone unanswered.

The OIA sought details contained in a report about the health, safety and security concerns which led to the closure, documents, from a "high-level investigation" detailing the estimated cost to upgrade



Ohakune Court, still closed.

the facility to be several million dollars and copies of high level correspondence regarding the closure.

NZME agreed to extend the deadline for the information from 19 to 31 January 2023, so the third part could be completed but requested the first two parts, which the ministry acknowledged would be available at the earlier date, be released if a further extension was required.

Repeated phone calls and emails to communication staff seeking an explanation why the OIA request had not been completed, including why the documents the ministry recognised were available had not been provided, have been made but still the information has not been received.

Buy and store your firewood before Winter!



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- Stack split wood loosely off the ground in a criss-cross pattern to let dry air circulate around it.
- Store seasoned wood in a dry place with the top covered.



What's on around Ruapehu

Waimarino Rodeo	18-19 March
Carrott Rocket Launch	1 April
Ohakune Beer Festival	8 April
Big Junction Day Out	8 April
Ohakune Junction Market	8 April
Raetihi Gutbuser	22 April



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stronger together...



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

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

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

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