

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Lake Rotoiti Community Association

Held on January 2nd 2018, 10 am, at Pikiaro Rugby League Club, Mourea.

Present

Jim Stanton, Mary Stanton, Nick Miller, Elizabeth Miller (Life Members)
Steve Chadwick (Mayor of Rotorua)
Hon. Todd McClay (MP for Rotorua)
Dave Donaldson, Merepeka Raukawa-Tait, Mark Gould (RLC Councillors)
Doug Leeder (Chair, BOP Regional Council)
Lyll Thurston (BOPRC Councillor)
Chris Ingle, BOPRC
Rob Pitkethley, RLC
Nick Chater, Jim Stanton (Rotorua Lakes Community Board)
Don Atkinson (LakesWater Quality Society)
Hilary Prior (Chair), Sherilyn Coney, Don Stotter, Nick Chater, Jim Stanton, David Wilson, Claire Miller (LRCA Committee).

Approximately 70 people in total were present at the meeting.

Apologies

Phill Thomass, Peter Stevenson, Kevin Winters, Charles Sturt, Fraser Wilson, Fred Stevens, Karen Hunt, Arapeta Tahana.

Jim Stanton made an announcement prior to the meeting noting the death of Bill Kingi, a previous committee member who made a great contribution to the Association during his eleven years on the committee.

Welcome

Hilary Prior opened the meeting and welcomed all official visitors and others present, thanking them for attending today.

Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting

Motion: Bob Armstrong proposed that the Minutes be taken as read and accepted, seconded by Jim Stanton. Accepted by the meeting.

Bob Armstrong moved a motion relating to the minutes: "that this meeting acknowledges with much gratitude the very well-presented item on pages 2 and 3 of the Summer 2017 issue of the Association's Newsletter. In particular the meeting expresses its very sincere appreciation to Derek Nolan and Roy Duffy for their efforts in progressing the Rotoiti Structure Resource Consent procedure in such a clear, concise, and above all cost-effective manner". Seconded by: Sherilyn Coney. Approved by the meeting.

Matters arising

Nil.

Chair's Report

Hilary noted that the Chair's Report is also shown on the front page of the current issue of the Newsletter. Various issues, including rating equity, consents for lake structures, the East Rotoiti Rotoma Sewerage Scheme consent, and the Okere Falls transfer station, will be covered in the General Business later in the meeting. Thanks to all those who joined the Association in the last year. Individual membership doesn't cost a lot, but it helps us to run the association and provides a reserve in case we require legal advice at some point.

Financial Report

Presented by Don Stotter, Treasurer. The report has been circulated to attendees of the meeting. We have had an increase in income, primarily due to an increase in membership. Thanks to the auditor Graham Prior.

Motion: It was moved by Don Stotter that the financial report be accepted, seconded by Jim Stanton. Accepted by the meeting.

Graham Prior was re-elected as auditor for the accounts.

Election of Officers

Chair: Jim Stanton took the chair for election of chairperson. He thanked Hilary for her sterling work and great commitment on behalf of and in the interests of the Association. Jim commented that Hilary had been Chair for ten years now, and although she was willing to continue at present, it was important to consider succession. If there is anyone in the community willing to consider becoming Chair in the future, please get in contact with the committee.

Hilary Prior was nominated by Jim Stanton, seconded by Warren Webber. There were no other nominations.

Committee:

All committee members are willing to stand again this year: John Bowen, Sherilyn Coney, Claire Miller, Jim Stanton, Don Stotter, David Wilson, Fraser Wilson, Nick Chater.

We have had a new person willing to come onto the committee this year: Helen Wallace.

Motion: It was moved by Nick Miller that those prepared to re-stand, as well as Helen Wallace, be accepted *en bloc*. Seconded by Buzz Rathbone. All agreed.

General Business

Rating:

Jim Stanton discussed the rating situation. The Lakes Communities Associations as a group agreed to form a committee several years ago to review the rating policies of Rotorua Lakes Council (RLC), subsequent to RLC's decision to remove differentials from the rating systems across the district. We have campaigned against this for over 20 years now. Details for our reasons for campaigning for differentials for the rural residential sector in particular are covered in the Newsletter – particularly our different access to services provided by RLC. Meetings with RLC officials are ongoing, and we are planning to make submissions on the next Long-Term Plan.

Fred Hoogveld: does the new rating valuation affect our differential?

Jim: the new rating valuations have been below urban valuations increases for the first time for several years.

Hilary Quemby: Did you mean that rural increases went up less than in town? Ours went up 113%.

Jim: On average rural areas went up 30% as opposed to 46% for the urban area. Individual increases can vary a lot.

Lakes Structures:

Roy Duffy came forward to talk about his research into the history of lakes structures and the documentation surrounding it. This has been passed on to the Association for our reference. The most recent update from Sheryn Owen of Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) says that contrary to her expectations, sending out documentation packs to structure owners has been more complicated than hoped. Only around 100 have been sent out, and many people will not have received their notification yet. BOPRC have said that they acknowledge that documents have not yet been sent out in time. This is not an assurance that people will not be in breach of their consent if they do not renew in time. It seems likely to be a good way through 2018 before BOPRC manage to get out their notifications to everyone.

Graham Prior: A lot of people have got more than one structure. Does the estimated fee cover all of them, or only individually?

Roy: I don't know that yet. I have asked for clarification around what would be the outcome of the issue of unconsented structures that haven't been picked up in the original resource consent – e.g. retaining walls or ramps, but haven't yet received a response. If anyone in the room has received your pack and had any issues around them please let me know.

Nick Miller: A question around the definition of ramps. Does that include grass slopes or beaches?

Roy: It only includes a man-made structure such as wood or concrete or cobblestones.

Graham Prior: Going back to the issue of several consented structures, does that count as \$3000 or \$1500 for two structures, such as a jetty and boat shed?

Roy: BOPRC are trying to amalgamate them all into one consent. In that case it should be right for them to ask for only one fee.

Steve Chadwick: BOPRC are only looking at currently consented structures. The unconsented structure process is managed through the Te Arawa Lakes Trust (TALT) and very well managed. Most issues seem to have gone away but we are happy to put the issue on the agenda for the next Trust meeting.

Roy: The unconsented structures are managed through TALT. Consented structures are through BOPRC.

Graham Prior: If you've got one consented structure and one un-consented one, then are they likely to not renew the consented one until you have got the un-consented one through?

Mary Browning: Thank you for your work on this. I have been in touch with Sheryn Owen, and she has been helpful to a degree. With the extended time needed for the application process, will the renewal time go from the expiry date or the date of renewal?

Roy: I don't know as I haven't yet met anyone with a completed consent. That's BOPRC's issue as they have been late.

Warren Webber: Thanks for all the work you've put in on this. Under the Te Arawa Lakes Settlement Act, it specifies that regardless of whether the structure was consented or not prior to the Act, they are all considered as one. We have received a renewal notice and it is specific that the renewal is for 10 years without right of renewal. This is of considerable concern. We encourage all with specific concerns or examples to send them to Roy.

East Rotoiti Rotoma Sewerage Scheme:

Hilary invited Dave Donaldson to give an update on the East Rotoiti Rotoma Sewerage Scheme.

The Rotoiti scheme has been consented. Tendering for the Rotoma scheme and the block behind Emery's Store is underway and needs to be underway by the end of this financial year, or the Ministry of Health subsidy will be lost.

The Biolytics trial is underway around Curtis Rd. There won't be a decision made on whether to go ahead with Biolytics for the remainder of the Rotoiti scheme until the trial is completed. They may need to go to the Environment Court over the decision.

Dave gave an explanation of the STEP (Septic Tank Effluent Pumping) system, and the concern of iwi around the reticulation of waste.

Paul Norman: Why can't the present tanks be utilised instead of having a new tank put in?

Dave: Maybe individual cases can be solved using current tanks.

Rob Lewis: Have RLC settled on a cost yet?

Dave: By cost per property, STEP wouldn't be dearer than Biolytics. It is about \$1m cheaper overall.

Rob Lewis: What are the ballpark costs for each property?

Dave: Around \$14,000 per property.

Michael Carr-Smith: What is the process for STEP?

Dave: STEP reticulates the waste to the treatment station in town, where it is treated to a higher standard.

Council maintains all the reticulated area. There is a level targeted rate across the district. RLC have decided that they aren't going to do a review of the rating system in the next Long Term Plan. Differentials and targeted rates are the methods RLC use to affect the Local Government Act rating systems. Water and waste collection are equalised targeted rates, rather than differentiated.

Dave acknowledged Ian McLean's role in leading the steering group for the project, including managing cultural concerns. He also acknowledged Warren Webber's work.

Nick Miller: Are there still any significant communities around Rotoiti, e.g. Tumoana Point, that won't be connected in the near future?

Dave: Tumoana was looked at a while ago, but were not included in the scheme. They are subject to BOPRC OSET rules, even though some are very close to the water line. It's a consideration for the future, but for the moment the reticulation area is from Curtis Road to Tamatea Street. There is also another project steering committee looking at getting Rotoehu's Otautu Bay and Kennedy Bay connected to the scheme.

Okere Transfer Station:

Hilary raised the issue of the Okere Transfer Station. After the last AGM, Hilary met with RLC officers to discuss the reported problems with the waste collection. RLC decided that these were not issues.

The Okere Transfer station is having a lot of problems with large-scale commercial tipping taking place. Smart Environmental are recording every issue and charging RLC for every time they have to do a removal.

One of the things LRCA asked for at the start was a camera at the station. Hilary has asked Te Akau Peninsula Security Association (TAPSA) about their experience with cameras, and has done a lot of other research, with views to getting a camera in. Due to Health and Safety requirements we can't put a stanchion in at the middle of the gateway, but Hilary suggested that if nothing else we put in something to narrow the entrance to ensure that people don't remove the bins. Hilary will contact RLC as soon as they open after the holidays, asking to get funding underway for lighting, a camera and amendments to the gateway, as the community doesn't want to lose the transfer station. Community members are willing to do the ongoing maintenance. Hilary asked for approval from the meeting and received approval to go ahead.

Marcus Wilkins agreed that this needs to be addressed. There appears to be a lot of rubbish coming from the holiday park. A lot of those are leased sites, and so should be treated as residential homes, rather than a motor camp. They should be individually rated, which would give them rights such as rubbish collection. It's no

use getting cameras and a light in unless RLC can impose some kind of penalty, which should be attached to the owner of the car concerned. Thanks to Hilary for all her work and she has the full support of TAPSA. Hilary: it is an interesting point because each unit at the Camp is now owned individually, it's no longer a holiday camp.

John LaRoche: re the collection of rubbish, especially bags, from the end of the road at the boat ramp at Gisborne Point. Smart Environmental's collection takes place once a week, and at this time of year it isn't sufficient. Council used to come around every day. Also, the bags get ripped open by dogs. Gisborne Point needs a wire cage there, which residents can put their bags into to keep them safe.

Michael Gowan: adding a supplementary comment to support John. We do not have adequate provision for bottle collection at Gisborne Point. Currently people just put them into the normal rubbish, or have to take them into town. There should be a bottle collection container as well.

Hilary: In the past we have tried to find a place around the eastern end of Rotoiti for an equivalent to a transfer station for recycling etc. If anyone can suggest a place where we can start trying to get community consensus on then we would love to hear from you.

Steve Chadwick: The comment from RLC that there weren't any problems around the waste collection rollout isn't quite right. The issue now is to work through the Lakes Community Board to work with the pockets of problems. This year RLC will work with the Rural Community Board to look at their issues as well. Also, the motor camps will be looked at this year, e.g. at Rerewhakaaitu as well as at Okere. Dave has just reminded us that over \$200,000 a year is spent cleaning up after fly-tipping, and at least they are having the courtesy to leave the rubbish at the transfer station instead of on the roadsides. A help would be to put in the next Newsletter issue the phone number to ring for an extra collection. RLC are also looking at whether we bring in green waste recycling collections. Thanks to the community for your work, especially to Phill Thomass. No councillors would ever get rid of something that is working that well. Everything recycled means that less is put into the waste collection, which is great for long-term management.

Doug Leeder complimented Hilary, Roy, and the committee on the very comprehensive Newsletter. One addition: the process for existing consented structures is fairly streamlined. The process for un-consented structures involves Te Arawa Lakes Trust. The two processes run in parallel.

There is an ongoing problem with catfish in Te Weta Bay. BOPRC isn't walking away from the problem, and the biosecurity people are still working on it. This is still being managed. The Endothall process is still going through the consenting process.

Nick Miller: the catfish cordon – how long is that likely to be in place?

Doug: I'm not sure. Fyke-nets have also been set in other locations around the lake.

Roy Duffy: the maritime patrol vessels have been vigilant in picking up the Stand Up Paddleboard paddlers without lifejackets. Apparently, there is now a law that all boats have to have a name written on them. There hasn't been any publicity. Is there likely to be any notification?

Doug: There was a new Bylaw passed during the current season.

Don Atkinson: the new regulations were presented during the year. All boats must be named, and jet skis must be licensed and display that in addition to their name. I also have concerns around advice and promulgation around these new regulations. Maps aren't being advised at the ramps etc – people haven't got the new information.

From 1st Jan, the patrol boat people have been issuing breach notices. The laws came into force in July.

There should be notices on the ramps and in the stores. The harbourmaster and volunteers are expected to take a reasonable approach, so Doug will get Chris Ingle to take note of this.

Sherilyn: does this mean every boat including dinghies? Does it have to be the name of the boat or the name of the owners?

Can be named anything, with a minimum of 2 letters, and specific letter sizes.

Doug: Can Hilary please cover the issue in the next Newsletter.

Dave Wilson: At a meeting at the Okawa Bay Hotel covering the new bylaws, the harbourmaster said that the manufacturer's name is okay, it just has to be identifiable.

Hilary: When the Newsletter comes out, we go to BOPRC and RLC for input into each issue, and did not receive much material this time.

Todd: Clarifying that the Bylaw requiring a name applies to any powered boat over 4m, or over 6m and unpowered.

Todd McClay congratulated Hilary on her re-election and gave thanks on behalf of the wider community of people who don't come to the AGM and don't read the newsletters but still benefit from all her hard work. A lot of constructive issues have been raised by the society.

Rubbish dumping is an increasingly prevalent issue around the country and an increasing challenge for councils. We need to find ways for RLC to work with LRCA and find out how to identify people dumping items

and give councils tools to punish them and provide disincentives. Meanwhile the lakes are looking relatively good, and there is always more work to be done, but otherwise many thanks.

Lee Ofsofski asked about freedom camping. A lot of people are camping at the bottom of Trout Pool Road. There are some signs regarding camper vans, but nothing about cars. Most of the vehicles there are not self-contained. More rubbish bins have been put in but at a cost. There is only one toilet, and people are using the bushes. Just after Christmas there were also people overnighing at the end of Okere Road. Unless someone polices sites, there will be a growing issue.

There is also concern about the traffic at the Okere Falls Store – it's very dangerous. There was discussion at the Transit forums but no development has come out of that. With the addition of the kayaking company headquarters there is increased foot traffic in that site. Who do we approach about this?

Hilary: LRCA has suggested a drop in the speed limit to 50km but since that is a State Highway there are limitations on what can be done.

Hilary asked Rob Pitkethley, as RLC's Sports, Recreation & Environment Manager, to comment on the freedom camping issue. It's a difficult situation for RLC to manage. The Freedom Camping Act allows people to camp many places around the country. Many councils have put in bylaws to control – a few have been successful but they require a lot of policing for compliance. RLC doesn't have a bylaw, and has tried to take an approach where it can as best as possible minimise the effect of campers. The problem with Trout Pool Rd is that it has become a permanent campsite. RLC has developed a campsite there and is trying to manage the problem. They haven't said self-contained vehicles only, as there is a toilet block there. They are trying to work slowly to educate people, and improve infrastructure around the lakes. They hope to tap into Government funds for infrastructure support. There have been successes at Boyes Beach with community management. RLC are looking at community possibilities at Hamurana.

Jim: As we've heard, there has been a consultation period with Safe Roads and LTNZ around the issues at Okere Falls and Mourea. They've put forward some solutions and are engaging with the Lakes Community Board around updates. They're working with Paengaroa first, and are intending to work with Okere around the middle of the year. There are intentions to put in a centre haven area to facilitate people crossing the road. They are also looking at increasing parking facilities around the area, and more centre line delineation and shoulder space from SH30 to Paengaroa. We've put the contact details for Safe Roads into the Newsletter issue for anyone to contact them.

Marcus Wilkinson: a couple of underpasses could be put in at Okere to eliminate the problem. It's a State Highway and as soon as you start slowing people down you get a lot of traffic congestion. A lot of farmers in the area have got contacts with the underpass diggers.

Hilary: with regards to underpasses, there may be problems with the water table in the area.

Steve: RLC's top priority is the 4-laning of Te Ngae Road. Traffic management at Okere Falls is also an important issue. The underpass would be a cost issue. The middle isle is in the Long Term Plan for 2018. Safe Roads do listen to concerns put forward to them. This year RLC are coming out in February with their Long Term Plan, asking for support for some big moves to help keeping Rotorua moving – a lakefront development, and the need for a sustainability plan for the Whakarewarewa estate, including Long Mile and the interaction with Scion. The Museum needs to be upgraded – could be up to \$60m. Asking for Government support and Ratepayer support. The Sir Howard Morrison Performing Arts Centre also is closed and needs earthquake strengthening. The Spatial Plan is coming through – there was a good workshop. There is a need for more housing and opening land for more developments. Best wishes to all for a great New Year.

Warren Webber provided an update on the new Operating Consent for the Okere Gates, which has now been in place for the last four years. As part of this consent, Ngati Pikiao Environmental Society have presented their Cultural Impact Assessment at the end of November. A working group will be established in the New Year to work through possible mitigations. Ngati Pikiao Environmental Society have generously said that anyone who wants to be in the working group can be included – so if anyone is interested please contact Warren. Warren has some handouts available around the history of the gates.

Don Atkinson – the LakesWater Quality Society AGM is on Monday 29th January. Troy Baisden, the new BOPRC Chair of Lakes Research at the University of Waikato, will be there to give his vision on the lakes and the future work needed. An overview of last year's Symposium will be given.

Hilary: Thanks to everyone for coming today. Also, personal thanks to Steve Chadwick, for the work you have done for Rotorua in a bad personal year. Best wishes for the year to everybody.

The meeting closed at 11.55 a.m.