

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

Held on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, 10 am, at Pikiaro Rugby League Club, Mourea.

## Present

Jim Stanton, Nick Miller, Elizabeth Miller, Phill Thomass (Life Members)  
Steve Chadwick (Mayor of Rotorua)  
Dave Donaldson, Reynold McPherson (RLC Councillors)  
Doug Leeder (Chair, BOP Regional Council)  
Todd McClay (MP, Rotorua)  
Tā Toby Curtis (Chair, Te Arawa Lakes Trust)  
Phill Thomass, Sandra Goodwin (Rotorua Lakes Community Board)  
Rosemary Cross (BOP Regional Council)  
Don Atkinson (LakesWater Quality Society)  
Reina Engelen (Chair), Sherilyn Coney, Jim Stanton, Mike Gowan, Roy Duffy, Tom Macky, Annamarie Jensen, Claire Miller (LRCA Committee).

Approximately 100 people in total were present at the meeting.

## Apologies

Fiona McTavish, Lucas McDonald, Andy Bruere (BOPRC), William Anaru (TALT), Mary Stanton (Life Member), Robbie & Ann Sinclair, Nick Chater & Jennifer Rothwell (Rotorua Lakes Community Board), Karen & Keith Larkin, Leslie Sedensen, Matakino Lawless, Tina Wirihana, Sue & John LaRoche, Dennis Curtis (LRCA committee).

Apologies proposed and seconded by: John Lawless/Roy Duffy.

Rotu Mihaka opened the proceedings with a karakia.

## Welcome

Reina Engelen opened the meeting and welcomed all official visitors and others present.

## Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting

Motion: Bob Armstrong proposed that the Minutes be accepted, seconded by Tom Macky. Accepted by the meeting.

## Matters arising

Andrea Macfarlane asked whether there had been any development from last year regarding signage around the lake for boat and jet ski users. Reina asked Doug Leeder to respond to this later. Jim said that there had been some miscommunications with the Harbourmaster's office during the year. The previous Harbourmaster had left and there is now a new officer in place. We are still in the process of getting communication with the new Harbourmaster up and running.

Peter Stevenson: Where is the defibrillator in Mourea? A: There is one at the VR Rotorua Lake Resort, right beside the front door, so it is available even when the hotel is closed. There is also one available at the Ramada Resort, outside the office.

## Financial Report

Jim Stanton presented the accounts of the association and explained the details. The accounts have been reviewed by Graham Prior and the committee expressed their gratitude to him for doing so. The committee is looking for anyone in the audience willing to provide auditing services for the next year?

Q: The accounts show that LRCA is holding 5 years of income in assets. Is that the plan? Jim: over many years we have built up a 'fighting fund', which is intended to come in handy if at any time we need to fund any cases of litigation.

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

Jim Stanton moved that the incoming committee look into getting an audit of the accounts for 2021. Seconded by Claire Miller. Approved by meeting.

## Chair's Report

The Chair's report was read to the meeting, and copies were circulated. Reina gave thanks to all the LRCA committee for their efforts over the year.

## Election of Officers

Reina stood down and Jim took the floor while election of the Chair took place.

**Chair**: Reina Engelen was nominated as Chair by Claire Miller, seconded by Jim Stanton. There were no other nominations. Reina was elected with acclamation.

**Secretary**: Claire Miller was nominated as secretary by Jim Stanton, seconded by Reina Engelen. There were no other nominations, Claire was elected as Secretary.

**Treasurer**: Jim Stanton was nominated as treasurer by Claire Miller, seconded by Reina Engelen. There were no other nominations, Jim was elected as Treasurer.

**Committee**:

The following committee members are re-standing: Sherilyn Coney, Dennis Curtis, Roy Duffy, Mike Gowan, Annamarie Jensen, Tom Macky. They were nominated by Jim Stanton and seconded by Claire Miller. Accepted by the meeting.

Sarah Uhl volunteered to stand for the committee – nominated by Jim Stanton, and seconded by Claire Miller. Nominations were closed. All new and re-standing committee members were approved by the meeting.

## Committee Members' Presentations

Committee members gave presentations on their portfolios and updates on progress over the year.

### Lake Levels

- Jim Stanton gave a powerpoint presentation on lake levels. Current inflows from the Ohau Channel are low due to low rainfall throughout the year, so the lake level is lower than usual, though still within the set operating level. Jim also covered the proposed trial variation in lake levels. There is a proposal being considered to move away from the aspirational percentage range of operation and move to an operating method which is more reactive to the actual inflow and lake levels. Other aspects under consideration are increased mechanical weed control and not implementing the annual 'flush' of the Ohau Channel, as this has not been shown to have much impact.

Questions:

Nick Miller: has there been any consideration given around the impact on lake levels from the proposed geothermal power station to be built at Tāheke. There has been considerable ground subsidence at Wairakei and Ohaaki due to the geothermal power station there. Jim: all that we know is that the resource consent for the proposed power station at Tāheke 8C will go in around April 2021, and then people will have an

opportunity to put in submissions at that point. At present there is not a lot of information available around the proposal. We will need to keep an eye on this once the resource consent goes in. Dave Donaldson: Contact Energy presented to this meeting a few years ago on this topic, and the same questions were asked. Contact Energy is not responsible for the proposed structure now, but their engineer at the time said that Tāheke has a more rocky substrate than Ohaaki and they don't anticipate the same problem to arise.

John Lawless: Does the outflow from Lake Rotoiti have any major effect on the new development at Maketu, due to rising water level at the estuary there around the new development? Steve Chadwick: the work that has been done around the estuary has had a stunning effect – there has been a lot of water quality and biodiversity improvement there and Maketu residents are happy.

Reynold Macpherson: what is the strategic thinking with regard to accumulated silting in Lake Rotoiti? Jim: the main problem with silting is around the Delta area and the outflow of the Ohau Channel. Not aware of any other areas around the lake that have this issue.

- Roy Duffy spoke around biodiversity, sewerage and lake structures.

### **Biodiversity**

There will be a meeting coming up in February for iwi about wallaby control, organised by Te Arawa Lakes Trust (TALT). The meeting may be open to other interested people to attend to learn about wallaby control within the Central North Island. The issue with catfish is ongoing and around 50,000–60,000 catfish were caught in 2020, primarily in Te Weta Bay. Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) are continuing to work on lakeweed spraying, but some areas have been skipped recently. There has been an Endothall trial in Ōkātina, but it was not judged to be very successful. There is another trial of Endothall planned in conjunction with NIWA, with, hopefully, better results. Residents have noted that there are boats on the lake without names on or without lifejackets – they will be ticketed by the Harbourmaster if seen. Also, there are some residents leaving their boat trailers in the water – please do not do this as they are a harbour for catfish and a vector for them travelling to other lakes.

### **Sewerage**

Work on the East Rotoiti Rotoma Sewerage Scheme is ongoing and may take another two years before all properties are connected. LRCA are agitating for properties with badly-performing septic tanks in particular, to be connected more rapidly. There is another open day at the treatment plant planned for people to attend and ask questions – contact Phill Thomass if you wish to attend.

Questions:

Bob Smith, Te Ti Bay: I get all the info about weed spraying. Also got our bay missed last time and was told it was because of dirty weed. Paid to get it done privately, and the spraying was effective even though we were told it wouldn't be. Roy: spoke to BOPRC about this just before Christmas and told them this would be followed up after our AGM. It is very important for people to get on to the BOPRC email list so they can find out where the proposed spray areas will be and where they are going to be skipped, and to chase up with BOPRC and Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) about this if there are issues.

John Mace, Te Weta Bay: For the last 3-4 years have been asking them to do Te Weta Bay and they never had the funding for this. This year they did spray Te Weta Bay and it made a major difference – could get the boats out.

Don Atkinson: Just a comment about funding. LINZ is the major provider of funding for spraying and have given an increase this year.

Peter Stevenson, Ramada Resort: Have had a considerable weed problem there and have had an application with BOPRC since 2006 to get it sprayed. Have paid for scientists to come and investigate. BOPRC said the area had dirty weed and the spraying couldn't be done. The dirt there is coming in from a major stormwater drain from the road. Why is BOPRC turning them down when others have had success with their spraying?

Roy: please email LRCA with details if you have had problems and we can follow it up – if we don't know when there is a problem we can't raise concerns.

### **Lake Structures**

Roy: who has a lake structure? (Almost all of meeting raised a hand). Therefore, probably all present have a close interest in the situation around new consenting of these lake structures. LRCA have been working closely with the BOPRC consenting team. Following production and release of the cultural impact reports, Lake Rotoma's lake structure consents were almost all processed successfully. Lake Rotorua is mainly the same, as most cultural impacts there were assessed as "less than minor". Lake Tarawera has some issues raised and is working through the process. Lake Rotoiti is not yet started, mainly because Ngāti Māhino have not yet submitted their cultural impact report, rather than going in with the TALT report. On Lake Rotoiti, there

are around 500 structures, 380 resource consents, with 80% “minor or more than minor” cultural impacts assessments to be worked through. LRCA will be actively working with the other organisations - particularly TALT - in an endeavour to find a mutually acceptable solution.

Questions:

John Lawless: Owns a lake structure between Gisborne Point & Emery's Store. Received a \$1500 fee letter for the water under the jetty and the air above the jetty. Are BOPRC working with TALT? What is the basis of the fee? Roy: At the time of the 2006 Waitangi Treaty Settlement, lake structures were excluded from the terms of the settlement. Lake structures at that time were given 10-year extensions, which have come due for renewal in the last couple of years. Lake Rotoiti structures only need resource consent for what is within the water and on the lake bed. LRCA are arguing that Lakes A (Ōkāreka, Tarawera and Ōkataina) and non-Lakes A lakes should be treated separately, as they have different Rotorua Lakes Council (RLC) zoning.

John Lawless: There is a lovely new boat ramp installed at Komuhumu Point but there is no toilet there. Is there a way of getting a toilet there? Phill Thomass: this has been raised with Lakes Community Board and RLC. Looking at how this can be done – will need to go back to the hapu involved in the area to see what can be done. Working on it but can't give a guarantee. John: It would be good to action immediately because if there isn't a toilet on the land then people will use the lake.

Paul Lambert (Okere Falls): Is it right that Lake Rotoma lake structures were all assessed as “less than minor” while Lake Rotoiti structures mostly assessed as “minor or more than minor”? How do we work out how to reduce the assessed impact of Lake Rotoiti structures? Roy: we are looking at how we can work through this, and reduce the workload to TALT and the community so that 300+ submissions don't have to be processed.

Paul: I understand that the fee that you pay for the consent is directly related to amount of impact? Derek Nolan: the estimated \$1500 fee (including deposit application fee of \$774), is paid to BOPRC for processing costs, and \$50 to TALT. The LINZ lease gives owners a property right for the lake structure. The BOPRC resource consent gives the right to use the structure. Paul: do we understand what the cultural impacts of the structures are – is it something about the structures or more general? Roy: the TALT report is available and linked from our newsletter and website. Individuals can see their own structures and the impacts that are assigned to them. In particular areas all structures are given as “more than minor” because they are within a certain distance of another structure or of a cultural site. There are not always descriptions provided of what these cultural sites are and so LRCA would welcome a dialogue with TALT to see how these impacts can be mitigated if possible. In some cases TALT has indicated they wish to keep the location of specific cultural sites confidential. BOPRC and LRCA are continuing to work on engaging with TALT and other individual iwi around the lake.

Kate Barry-Piceno: Question about the application process. Is BOPRC including as part of their process an individual peer review of the TALT cultural assessment? How is BOPRC handling Ngāti Mākinō's desire to remain independent of TALT, with regard to where iwi rohe overlap or take precedence? Roy: the week before Christmas BOPRC informed us that they have only managed to get in contact with the Ngāti Mākinō representative mid-December, so that discussion process is only starting. Otherwise, we are not far enough ahead with the whole process for Lake Rotoiti to see how the process around dialogue between TALT/ Ngāti Mākinō/BOPRC etc is going to work.

Bob Armstrong: Concern that there is going to be a long process. If this is a 10-year consent renewal process to go through and then start again, at the current rate it will be an ongoing process and there will be no gap in between renewals. Most structures have been well-maintained in the past and are likely to be well-maintained in the future. Would like to propose the following motion in order:

*That it be the policy of this Association that resource consents for existing properly maintained structures be renewed for a minimum of thirty years.*

Proposed: Bob Armstrong. Seconded by: John Lawless. All meeting in favour.

Roy: the original proposal for resource consents was 30 years, down from 35 years due to wanting to have consistency with resource consents for structures on Department of Conservation (DoC) land which give 10-year renewals. LINZ and DoC are only empowered to give 10-year renewal terms.

Nick Miller: Comment that in the past we have been through the entire lake structure business several times. At one hearing there were 4 planners making the decisions who have very little experience with boats and their requirements.

Roy: Some people may have noticed in RLC's update that Lake Tarawera's sewerage scheme seems to be about to go ahead. This to be around \$30,000-\$33,000 cost to individuals, compared to the \$13,000-\$15,000 for individuals at Rotoiti.

John Mace: Question of navigation and 5-knot buoys on Lake Rotoiti. The buoy outside Te Weta Bay went missing last summer, was replaced in the winter, and is missing again now. Residents have noticed issues with personal watercraft and jet skis roaring into the bay. There have been more problems with this this year than in the previous 20 years. Who is responsible for getting buoys back into position? Roy: had very similar story. Told BOPRC of missing buoy at his bay and was told they would get back to Roy but never did.

Harbourmaster patrol boat not very interested. Will work on chasing this up. Phill: buoys come adrift all the time when attachments come loose. Suggest that for bad behaviour of jet skis etc just keep contacting the Harbourmaster. The response rate should be better now that the Harbourmaster role has been filled. The more complaints they get the more they will react to it. Get pictures/registration number of jet skis or other boats speeding – BOPRC will crack down on these and fine them. The speed limit is in place whether or not the buoy is in place.

Rosemary Cross (BOPRC staff) happy to take comments to the Harbourmaster. Understand from consents team that application letters for lake structure consents have been sent out. If anyone has changed their mailing address, please contact the team and they will send out another consent pack.

## **Communications**

- Tom Macky: Gave update on the work of the communications committee along with Annamarie and Sherilyn, and explained the moves to new formats of communication to the community – focussing on the website.

Annamarie: also covered Facebook and email updates. If you want email updates, please contact Annamarie. We are hoping to expand our coverage away from just one contact per household – anyone can sign up to get the updates. There are also LRCA postcards and posters placed around the lake at various stores. We hope to see as many people as possible becoming paid members – the cost is only \$15 per year.

Sherilyn: produced this year's newsletter. Now only doing one physical newsletter per year rather than two. Would like to make it bigger and have more community stories or issues in it – would especially like to get more information from the western end of the lake. Please send through anything you want to have included, including ads for relevant lake services. Thanks to all those concerned in putting the newsletter together this year.

- Mike Gowan and Claire Miller: introduced themselves as committee members. On behalf of the committee, urging people to renew membership and also get other family members to support the Association with membership as well.

## **Presentations**

### **Whakahaumanu Wetlands (Tāheke) – John Treanor**

Provided a presentation about Project Whakahaumanu. This is looking at restoring the land and people around Tāheke papakainga, focussing on the intersection of Okere and Te Akau Roads. The aim is to create new wetlands and restore and revitalise two other wetlands on the land around this intersection. Aiming to turn the site of the previous fire station into a carpark for viewing of the new wetlands, which will be created and fenced further up the valley. Hoping to revegetate the area around the wetlands with manuka and other natives, removing the extant blackberry and gorse. Major clearing works will take place shortly. The project has the support of Ngāti Pikiao Land Trust, BOPRC, DoC, PF Olsen, Kaitiaki Ventures, Downer Ltd., Lake Rotoiti Holiday Park, David Harris, LRCA, RLC. The project team have set aside the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturdays of May and June this year for planting – will welcome the wider community to come and be involved in the project then.

Questions:

Elizabeth Miller: As a long-time Te Akau Rd resident, congratulations on this project.

### **Steve Chadwick – RLC Mayor**

Wonderful to see the Chair of TALT here. Congratulations on having the new committee members give presentations on all their work here, continuing the work of previous LRCA committees and Chairs.

RLC have been working on gaining knowledge of the people of their community, networking with other organisations within the Rotorua community to support people through the last year. Community is taking control of assets and working to improve the area.

RLC in conjunction with TALT got government funding support through Jobs for Nature to assist in making a difference for Rotorua. Two big issues that RLC are working on in the Long-Term Plan are building on community resilience and building a leadership approach where RLC work with iwi/community and central government. Also building more houses in the district to relieve pressure. Thanks also to Phill Thomass and Sandra Goodwin of the Lakes Community Board who do a wonderful job of working between the lakes communities and the Council.

### **Doug Leeder – BOPRC Chair**

Congratulations to Reina and LRCA on work shown today. These presentations have shown all the work done over the year – can't give much more info to add. One correction – the lake structure application fee is \$750. In some circumstances add-ons may bring it up to maybe \$1500 but that shouldn't be the norm.

As noted earlier, we have a new Harbourmaster – Jon Jon Peters. He comes to us from Kawhia, where he was the Harbourmaster. A different environment dealing with the Tasman Sea but he is adapting to the lakes. BOPRC have been working on policy development around the Three Waters and the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management. Now moving onto the implementation of policy. The big activity in the next 12 months in terms of potable water & wastewater will be the setting up of an independent entity to oversee activity across the country. Local authorities will be brought into this authority to run their water schemes. Where communities are not on a territorial authority water supply (i.e. if they are on a private/community scheme covering more than 1 household) they will be captured by this new authority. It is likely to be 2024/25 before all these schemes get brought under the authority. BOPRC and the community should keep an eye on what is happening here.

BOPRC are looking at making one plan change for all freshwater plans by December 2025. There will be a cost to do this which will come back to ratepayers.

Plan Change 10 has been resolved. This should hopefully now get back on track with incentive funding for land management changes.

Re the lake structure discussions – progress is slow, but the benefit will be that at the end of the process we come out aligned and not aggrieved. TALT has a statutory role to fulfil here and it has to be carried out. There is a lot of work in progress to consult with iwi, hapu and whanau – identifying who are the representatives of these entities to consult with. BOPRC are working with TALT to develop an Environmental Hub to enable this. BOPRC are also putting more money into biodiversity issues such as wallaby control. Jobs for Nature also giving a lot of funding into the Bay of Plenty to enable this. However, this central government funding is only short-term for four years and then is expected to be taken up by local government or private enterprises.

### **Todd McClay – MP Rotorua**

Congratulations to LRCA on achievements and on the presentations given on complex problems being faced. Please keep up your good work on giving community updates on things such as catfish. 2020 has been a very tough year and all the environmental and social consequences of COVID-19 lockdowns are still being identified. Congratulations on the achievements.

### **General Business:**

- Don Atkinson: Firstly, the LakesWater Quality Society AGM takes place on 1<sup>st</sup> February – please come along. There will be a focus on catfish and the catfish monitoring buoys – the results of those findings. Also, on the impact of Government freshwater policies and how those will impact the lakes. Also updates around wallabies and lakeweed.

Also want to revisit recognition of Hilary Prior's work as LRCA Chair in previous years. Jim Stanton: Hilary's Life Membership was included at end of Election of Officers at last year's AGM.

- Marcus Wilkins: Covering improved access across the road at Okere Falls. Got 1000 signatures on the petition. Didn't get enough funding for an underpass. With the roading barriers going up it will be worse for cyclists along this stretch. It is getting harder all the time to cross the road there. There is now a cycling bypass all the way from Paengaroa to Maniatutu Rd. The most dangerous part of the highway is between Maniatutu Rd and Okere Falls. Need a pedestrian underpass to enable people to cross the road safely there. Would like to have community support to get an underpass in there.

- Kaye Mace: Re vegetation on the side of the road there at the Okere Falls corner. Have asked them to trim back vegetation there to make improved visibility to make it safer to cross the road between the control gates and the bus shelter. Was sent in circles between Higgins, New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) and RLC – no-one wants to do anything about it. Jim: acknowledge the great work that has been done by the Okere Falls Care Group there. It has been an ongoing issue in the Safe Roads area – neither NZTA nor RLC want to take responsibility for it. As a State Highway, it should be NZTA's responsibility. RLC don't have the responsibility or funding to undertake care of highway verges. LRCA have been struggling with NZTA over years to get their support to do work around there on a regular basis. Phill: Lakes Community Board have been working on the possibility of getting this done with Safe Roads. This also turned into a problem since

Safe Roads have been wound up and now operate under the umbrella of NZTA as Safer Journeys. Will keep pursuing this, with NZTA Safer Journeys.

Marcus: NZTA say that an underpass is well out of the scope of Safe Roads – estimated to be a multi-million dollar project. Talked to an engineer about it and was told that the total cost should be under a million dollars.

Reina Engelen gave thanks to Jan and Kaye and the other volunteers for their work putting together food for the meeting attendees to enjoy today.

The meeting closed at 12.55 pm with a karakia.