LAKE ROTOITI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SURVEY 2021

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COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.

THE DETAILS

- We wanted to connect with the Rotoiti community to gain better understanding of the issues people find important.
- We wanted to reach a larger audience than our current paid members.
- We promoted this survey via email (to 235 recipients), via a paid Facebook campaign (that reached 5014 people within a 40km radius of Rotoiti) and to various community groups such as the Rotoiti Sports Club, local iwi and Classic & Wooden Boats Society. We also sent it to people within the committees own networks.
- The survey was open for 5 weeks.
- We had 138 responses.

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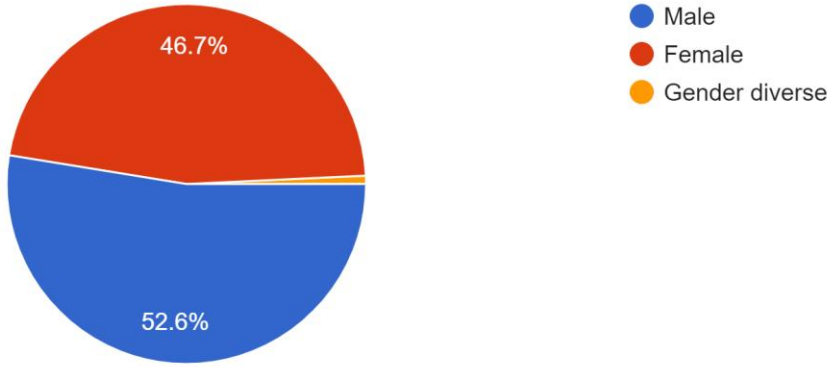
Question One

What gender do you identify with?

137 responses



This is a good even response across the genders

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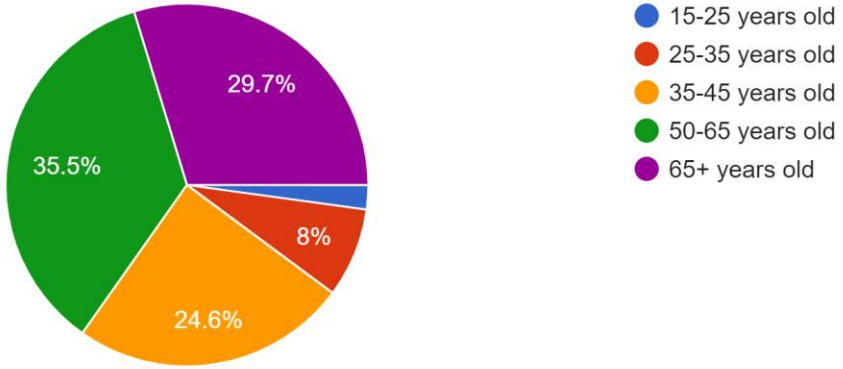
Question Two

What age group do you fall into?

138 responses



- The responses are skewed to people 50+ (65%)
- We know that the majority of our paid members are currently 50+ (and this tracks with people who are able to afford holiday or lakefront property)

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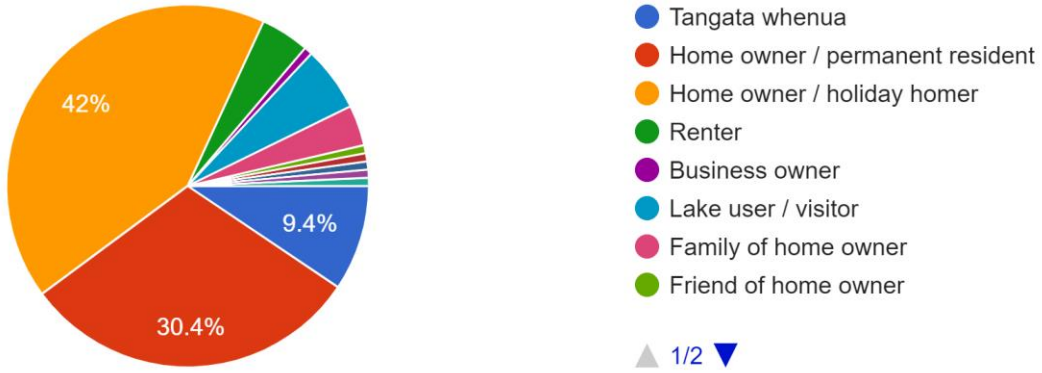
Question Three

What is your main connection to Lake Rotoiti?

138 responses



- Indicative of the split between holiday homes and permanent residents
- Tangata whenua not as represented in this survey as the actual geographic spread, but pleased with the amount of iwi who replied

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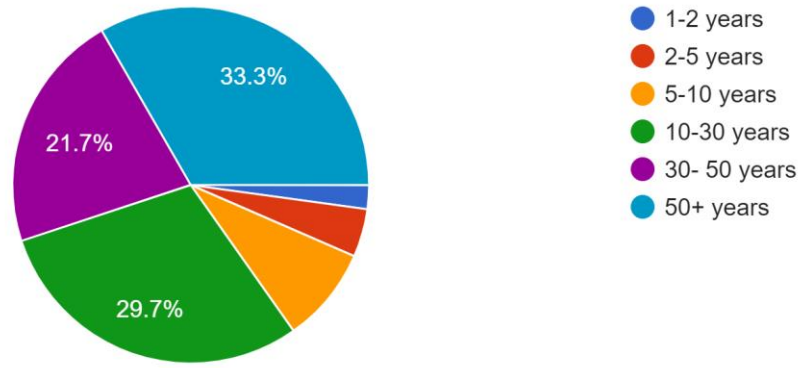
Question Four

How long does your connection to the lake go back?

138 responses



- Most people have a connection that goes back more than 10 years (84%)
- Shows that pākeha also have long connection to the lake (assumption of holiday homes passed down for many generations)

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Question Five

What area of Lake Rotoiti are you most closely connected to?

137 responses

- Most respondents from Ōkere Falls - representative of the spread of houses and growth of perm residents there
- Second biggest category is Gisborne Pt, which reflects the high number of current members from there
- This is quite true to the spread of houses around Rotoiti

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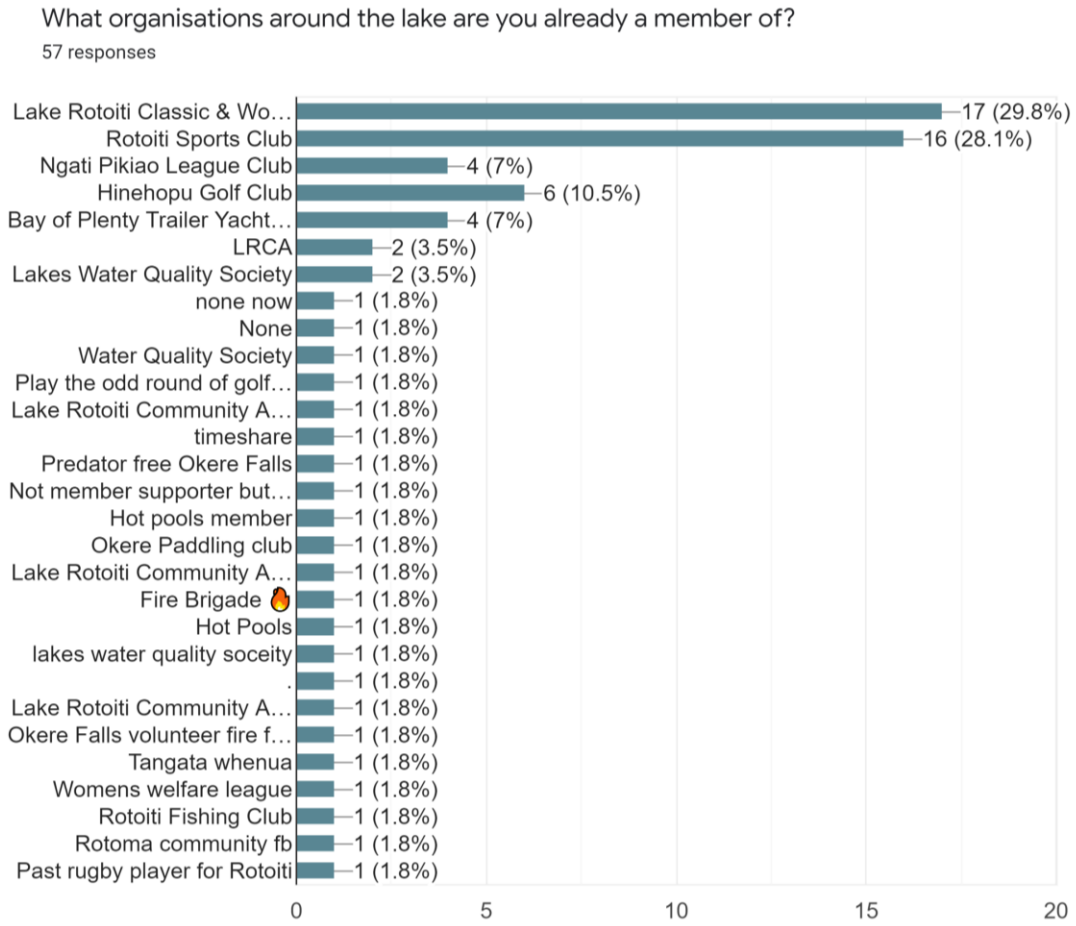
Question Six



- Some great written responses of different community organisations we weren't aware of
- Scope for LRCA to to connect with various organisations

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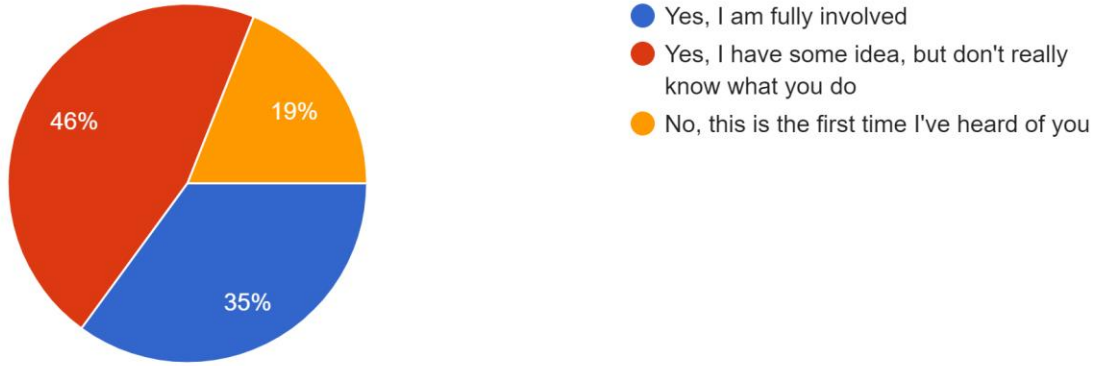
Question Seven

Do you know who the The Lake Rotoiti Community Association (LRCA) are?

137 responses



- 65% of people either didn't know of LRCA or fully understand what we do
- Great opportunity to increase our reach
- An email was sent to all respondents who provided details outlining what we do and how to become a member

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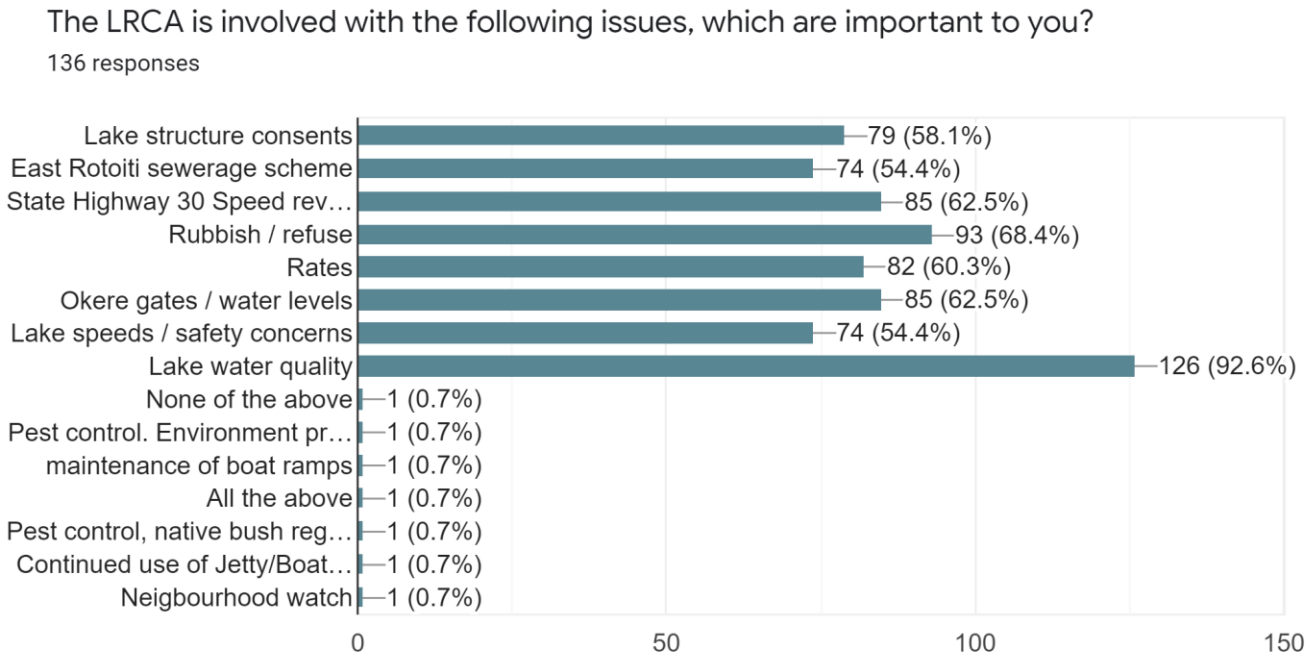
Question Eight



- Environmental issues are very important and there is opportunity for us align with & support those organisations who do this.
- This is an opportunity for us to connect with younger people, particularly permanent residents who are passionate on these issues
- This shows that the issues that are currently taking the majority of the committee time remain important

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Question Nine

The objectives of LRCA are to promote the interests, welfare and harmonious relationships of the community and to advance the environmental natural features and physical amenities of Lake Rotoiti for the public benefit. What other issues would you like to see the LRCA tackle?

Key themes are:

- Happy with current objectives/ mandate – doing a good job. 10 responses.
- Facilities – more playgrounds, public toilets, public jetties, ongoing maintenance of existing jetties/ picnic tables, public transport. 6 responses.
- Voice to RLC on issues affecting the lake/ fostering interests of members. 4 responses.
- Value for money for rates charged. 4 responses.
- Impact of forestry. Control of invasive species / pests / Canadian Geese. 4 responses.
- Fostering stronger community relations among all groups who use the lake. 3 responses.
- Water quality / weed control. 3 responses.
- Reduced road speed limits / road safety. 3 responses.
- More wardens (possibly local) to control errant boaties speeding too close to shoreline. Use commonsense. 3 responses.
- Crime prevention / community surveillance cameras. 2 responses.
- Engagement with TALT/ Iwi. Dissemination of history. 2 responses
- Replenishing trout in lake. 1 response.
- Banning of high-speed watercraft / jet skis / wakeboards for benefit of shoreline / fauna. 1 response.
- Apply pressure to Lakes and BOP councils to get conclusion to sewerage and lake structure consents issues. 1 response.
- Roadside rubbish / plant growth on foot paths. 1 response.

- Not everyone who did the survey responded to this question
- Most of the responses indicated the community thinks we're on the right track
- The key themes were council issues, environment issues, community issues and lake issues
- Many of the suggestions here are outside the scope of what we do and those suggestions need to be funnelled to the correct council / organisations
- Opportunity for the LRCA to lead a clean up day?

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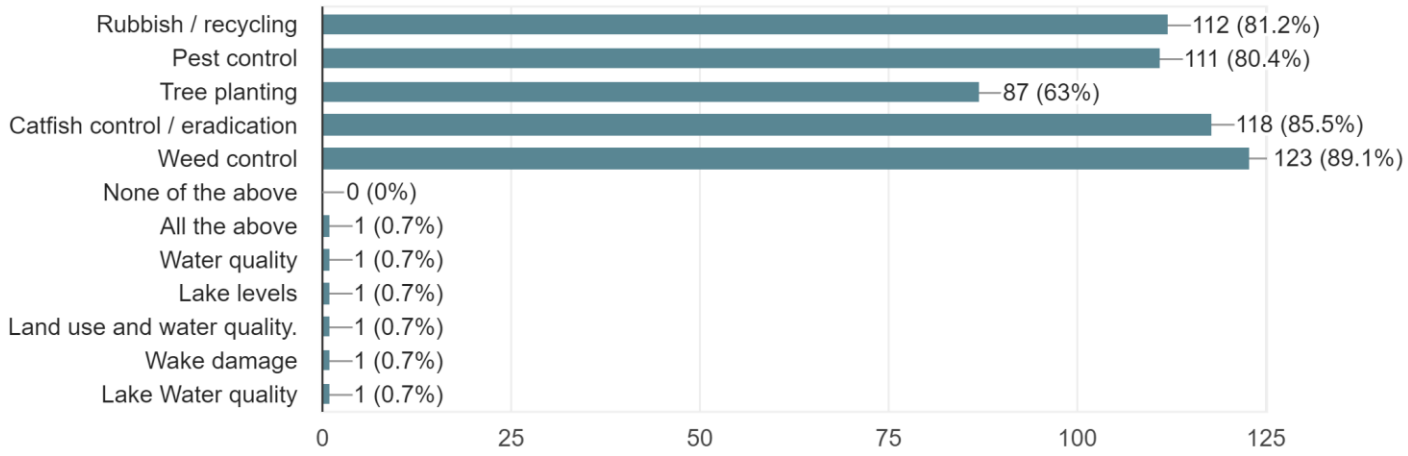
Question Ten

Environmental protection of the lake and surrounding areas is very important to us. What issues are important to you?

138 responses



Scope for environmental involvement - how can we best influence this?

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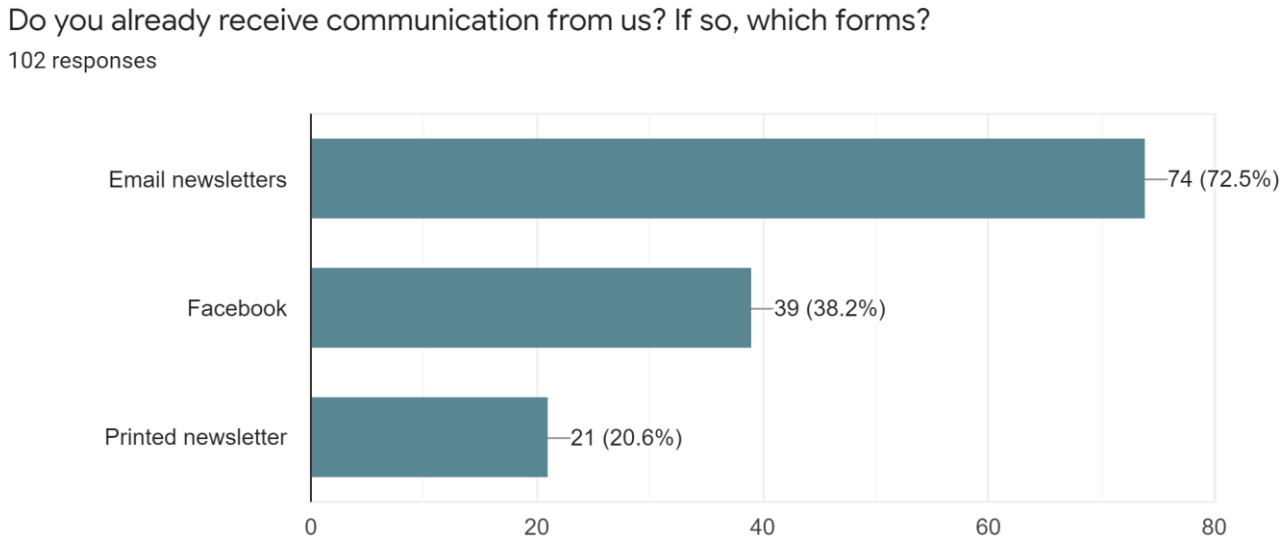
Question Eleven



Great to see that so many people already received communication from us

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Question Twelve

What is your preferred form of communication?

136 responses

- These results back up our communications strategy of focusing mainly on email newsletters & Facebook.
- We need to continue to challenge ourselves on the future of the printed newsletter due to the small number of responses here and the high printing costs (although there is a strong argument for the importance of a magazine-style newsletter that offers targeted advertising of relevant Rotoiti businesses and useful updates to share with whānau and friends)

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Question Thirteen

Would you like to see more community engagement / events? If so, what?

Key themes are:

- Think you're doing a good job. No further community engagement / events required. 17 responses.
- Bring non-resident community members closer to resident community. 2 responses.
- More regular meetings. 2 responses.
- Clean up day lakes and roadside. 1 response.
- Whanau days- visit local Hot Springs annually. 1 response.
- Car boot sales at Rotoiti Sports Club. 1 response.
- Biolytics public toilets around lake. 1 response.
- Street parties. 1 response.
- Like showcasing local businesses on FB page. 1 response.
- Individual Facebook pages for local areas. 1 response.
- More events. 1 response.
- Lake levels / weed control. 1 response.
- Maintenance of bays / beaches. Cleaning vegetation on foreshore. 1 response.
- Building public jetties in Te Aro and Wairau Bays. Barbecue table repairs. 1 response.

- Overwhelming positive responses
- The suggestions given are mainly outside the scope of the LRCA
- There is a conclusion that the LRCA works alongside community organisations but doesn't attempt to be the organiser

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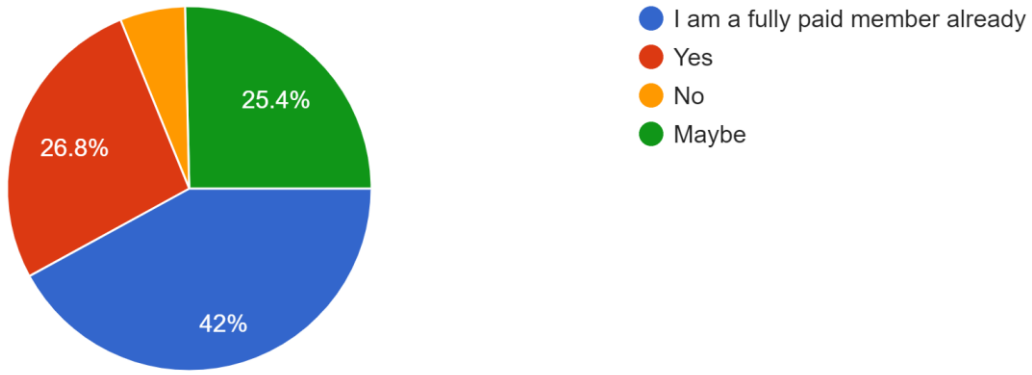
Question Fourteen

Membership of the LRCA is only $15 per annum which allows us to continue to represent the Lake Rotoiti community at district, regional and centr.... Would you consider becoming a financial member?

138 responses



- Many of the respondents were not already members - as previously identified, an opportunity to increase our membership
- An opportunity, as previously discussed as a committee to encourage multi generational membership

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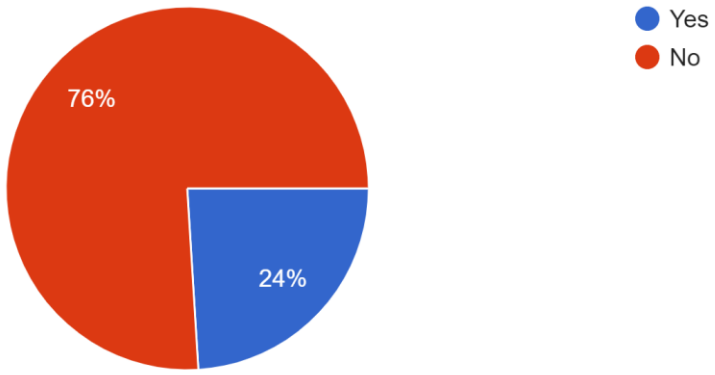
Question Fifteen

The LRCA allows for ten committee members and additional co-opted members. We meet about once a month (often on zoom) to keep the Rotoiti ...es you have highlighted and further benefit LRCA?

129 responses



These respondents were sent an email advising them how to engage with us

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Question Sixteen

Are there any other comments you'd like to make?

Key themes are:

- Committee doing a great job appreciate and support their efforts / no further comments. 40 comments.
- Communication and engagement with Te Arawa Lakes Trust. 2 comments.
- Could be more awareness / involvement within both local and holiday homeowners re: Lake Rotoiti issues. 2 comments.
- Get new Gisborne Point sign where main road turns into Wharetoroa Drive. Should be signed for both Gisborne Point and Komuhumuhu. 1 comment.
- Operation of Biolytics in Rotoiti. 1 comment.
- Criticisms re length of time taken to complete the survey (questioned whether this is also how the committee runs it's meetings). Also LRCA support for proposed lowering of lake level. 2 comments.
- Question as to who are current committee members. 1 comment.

- Overwhelming positive responses
- A few good suggestions that are again, mainly outside our scope and should be sent through appropriate channels

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FINAL FINDINGS

- There was an overwhelming response that the committee are on the right track, particularly with the major issues of importance and our communications
- There is more opportunity to connect with organisations around the lake and support them in their initiatives
- There are particular opportunities to work alongside environmental agencies and volunteer groups - i.e., pest control, tree planting, beach clean ups
- There is further work needed to communicate what we actually do, as many of the suggestions are outside our scope but are things we need to be across. In future communications, and in our constitution there is a need for clarity around the LRCA's obligations, objectives and functions. (81% of respondents said they do not really know what we do)
- There is an interest for more community integration - m**ā**ori and p**ā**keha, holiday homers and permanent residents
- There is plenty of scope to increase our financial membership (58% of respondents were not members)

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