



**LAKE ROTOITI
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.**

newsletter

summer 2022/2023

Notice of AGM

10AM MONDAY 2ND JANUARY

**PIKIAO LAKESIDE SPORTS AND COMMUNITY INC.
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Your community needs you! With so many important issues on and around our lake, we can't keep up with everything. We're looking for new committee members, particularly those with relationships within other community organisations, an interest in environmental issues and with a background in communication and advertising. Please consider putting your name

forward at this year's AGM – it's a great way to be in the know and give back to our community. Most meetings are now held on Zoom so you don't need to be a permanent resident to join. For updates on the day of the AGM you can visit our website www.rotoiti.co.nz. We will also update our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/lakerotoiticommunityassn

For those who do not plan to attend and still want to be involved we ask that you email any questions or comments to lrca@rotoiti.co.nz before 31 December 2022. We will be publishing the AGM minutes on our website and Facebook page after the meeting.

NAU MAI, HAERE MAI. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Committee Report 2022

It's been another challenging year of organising things remotely, meetings via Zoom and delays due to illness. But despite this, our committee has managed to stay across the most important issues affecting our lake and advocate for our community with both the Rotorua Lakes Council, Rotorua Lakes Community Board and Bay of Plenty Regional Council. We hope you have enjoyed our regular email updates, Facebook posts and News Updates on our website.

As a group of volunteers with varying levels of time availability we always try our best to be involved in the important issues, to advocate and to communicate. We have taken feedback raised from our community survey last year on board, particularly around environmental issues, resulting in the creation of a sub-committee on lake weed and more involvement with community organisations on issues like pest control. There is always more to be done and we'd love to have some new committee members join us for 2023! It is now much easier to join as most of our meetings are now held on Zoom as a number of the committee are not permanent Rotoiti residents.

It's a team effort on the LRCA committee and all our committee members deserve special mention this year for various reasons: **Chairperson Reina Engelen** has joined the Lakes Water Quality Society to represent Rotoiti this year; **Deputy Chairperson Roy Duffy** has been working incredibly hard communicating with both councils on

important issues like the East Rotoiti sewerage scheme and lake structure consents; **Treasurer Jim Stanton** always keeps our membership and money organised & chairs the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Operational Liaison Group which was instrumental in keeping abreast of the lake level resource consent variation; **Secretary Claire Miller** has continued to keep all our correspondence well organised and takes thorough minutes; **Sarah Uhl** has been heavily involved in setting up the Ōkere Care Group, making significant changes to the Ōkere Reserve; **Tom Macky** has leant heavily on Waka Kotahi for progress on the SH30 speed review and has developed a news blog on our website, **Annamarie Jensen** continues to keep the community informed via regular Facebook and email updates, **Mike Gowan** has sat on a number of sub-committees and **Sherilyn Coney** has pulled together this amazing summer newsletter for the third time in this format, which is a mammoth task. We want to take this opportunity to thank Sherilyn for the masses of work she has put in on the LRCA committee over many years. This is the last year she will stand for the committee and her invaluable commitment will be hugely missed.

We hope the 2022/2023 summer period treats you and your whānau well. It's been a rough few years for us all and we all deserve a break. We hope to see you at the AGM on the 2nd of January.

Meri Kirihimete from the 2022 LRCA committee

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LRCA COMMITTEE 2022

Chairperson – Reina Engelen (East Rotoiti)
Vice-chair — Roy Duffy (Te Puna Whakareia)
Treasurer – Jim Stanton (Ōkawa Bay)
Secretary – Claire Miller (Rotorua)
Tom Macky (Ruatō Bay), Annamarie Jensen (Ōtaramarae),
Sherilyn Coney (Gisborne Pt), Mike Gowan (Gisborne Pt), Sarah Uhl (Ōkere Falls)

We have had a number of people express interest in joining the committee, thank you! Any nominations can be made by approaching a member of our committee prior to the AGM or emailing lrca@rotoiti.co.nz

Lake Rotoiti Community Association

Registered Charity CC11386 | PDC Mourea, Rotorua, 3074

Editor and Production Co-ordinator: Sherilyn Coney

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Rotorua Lakes Community Board

REPORT 2022-2023



New Council

With the recent Local Government elections we have a large number of new Councillors, a new Mayor and Deputy, and new members on the Rotorua Lakes Community Board. I'd like to congratulate *Tania Tapsell* on becoming our new Mayor. While it will be a difficult job with all the issues facing Rotorua I'm sure she will be a fantastic mayor, and I hope she will have a supportive Council behind her.

Mayor Tapsell has been very supportive of both the Lakes Board and our lakes communities over the last 9 years, being the Councillor representative on the Lakes Board for the last two terms, and she has also had a strong interest in climate change and water quality, both issues of importance to our lakes communities.

I'd also like to congratulate Sandra Kai Fong who has been appointed as Deputy Mayor, a hugely important role.

For the first time since 2010 we didn't have an election for the Lakes Community Board this year as there was an equal number of nominations (4) as seats on the Board, meaning the nominees were elected unopposed. I'm humbled to be re-elected and welcome back Nick Chater to the Board. We also have two new members, Stephanie George and Peter MacMillan. While Stephanie lives in town she has whanau links to Tarawera and has a strong connection with our lakes. Peter lives in Hamurana and brings previous experience of being on a Community Board in the Wellington region. I look forward to the energy and enthusiasm that they will add to the Board over the next three years.

With a new Council and new Mayor the roles the two Community Boards will play in Council is a little unclear, but we will continue to work on our projects in our lakes communities. Currently at Tarawera we have seen the redevelopment of the Landing, while the refurbishment of the Stoney Point toilets (a project funded by the Lakes Community Board) continues. We expect this to be finished by Christmas.

The new Board will need to discuss and confirm its priorities for spending its devolved funding over the next three years, but the outgoing Board did in its last meeting make some recommendations around what it saw as important priorities that it hoped would be continued with, especially around the improvement of facilities for children and teenagers in our communities including Rotoiti. I also hope that as health and safety restrictions caused by covid over the last two years fade, the Board will be able to recommence coming out to all our communities in person for meetings where we can discuss with you, your concerns. These community based meetings were always helpful for us to understand issues facing the community, and have helped shape both our projects and also our advocacy with Council staff and elected members on your behalf.

While we have some uncertainties facing us around the roles of the Board in the new Council, I'm excited by the opportunities the Board will have in the coming three years to work on your behalf.

Phill Thomass, Chair, Rotorua Lakes Community Board
email: rlcb@thomass.net ph: 0275 47 4455

LAKEWEED

LRCA continues its efforts to be involved in discussions and decisions on the spray programme. We have selected some representatives from each settlement, to capture local knowledge on weed conditions. This is more difficult for the November spray programme, as many people have not yet ventured out on their boats, compared to the May programme.

However, the information that has been captured and sent to LRCA has been collated and submitted to LINZ (who fund it), and TALT (who now manage it). Our usual lobbying is important, as zones that are not sprayed are many times worse by the next time spraying is undertaken.

Members wishing to report concerns are welcome to submit to LRCA lrca@rotoiti.co.nz under the following headings:

1. Settlement/Bay/Point Name
2. Describe the nature of Weed (Floating, on lakebed, on beaches)
3. Where it is most prolific (eg Easten end)
4. If worse or better than normal

SEWERAGE SCHEME UPDATE

We have provided regular updates on the East Rotoiti Sewerage scheme progress. At the time of going to print, in addition to the 123 schemes completed by the end of October, another 50 to 60 schemes will be installed.

The contract is scheduled to conclude in March 2023, but the access issues to some whenua Māori land may delay this.

Individual property costs will not be known until final costs are known, and Councillors determine the amount to be paid.

Landowners can make arrangements for site visits to discuss the installation and location of Biolytix systems.

Contact our new project team member Leo Morley from WSP at leo.awata.morley@wsp.com.

Alternatively, the engineers representative can be contacted at gerhardus.mostert@rotorualc.nz or 027 214 1820.



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WE NEED YOU!

We were unable to do a full lake survey this year due to fewer volunteers. If you have a boat and can help do an annual survey in April, please contact me. We can fully train you for Dabchick spotting and recording.
Contact: sarahuhl@gmail.com

Dabchick Yearly Survey

LAKE ROTOITI APRIL 2022

Rotoiti has the most resident dabchicks in the country, due to its shape and size and it takes many boats to survey it. Inevitably, the shoreline sections are therefore often difficult to compare year on year as they are frequently changed

depending on personnel and the number of boats available, and sometimes not all sections are surveyed.

However, the overall long-term trend shows this is a healthy population. We also need help with the full waterbird census this Auckland Anniversary Weekend (28-30 January).

Most importantly we need at least 3 boats on the same morning of that weekend and 3 skippers and 3 scribes. We will allocate skilled birders to do the actual identifications and counts. In exchange for a few hours of your time you can learn about all the amazing native birds that live in our community.

Wishin Tree Soap

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Local girl, Annette Black, daughter of well known builder, Rangi Black, makes wonderful natural soap using water from the Wai-iti Stream.

"I gather the local plants bio dynamically utilising the moon phases to pick the plants at their very best. Harvesting is done in the early morning and takes place three days in to the full or new moon; the rising moon for plants above ground and the waning moon for the roots of plants."

Kawakawa is heavily infused for the base and kanino, which softens the skin, rewarewa flowers, horopito for yeast infections, are all gathered round eastern Rotoiti. These soaps are sold in local stores so keep your eye out for them.



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ROTOITI SH30 SAFER SPEEDS UPDATE



Steady but slow progress has been made on the speed review since we made our final submissions in February 2022. Complying with the new rule for setting speed limits introduced in May has hindered progress.

Waka Kotahi advise that:

“Currently we’re finalising the signage design plan – this goes into detail such as the location of every single sign on the state highway, between Tikitere and Whakatane, and what is on it (speed, name etc). This plan includes new signs for the various Marae/Pa alongside SH30. Once the signage design has been completed, it will go out for pricing and an estimated time frame will be supplied by the contractor as to how long it will take to order and install new or update existing signs. We’re also finalising the legal details so the new speeds can be implemented. In terms of timing, we’ll alert you as soon as we have more concrete information.”

Pressed further for a delivery timeframe we were advised of the legal difficulties faced in implementing the desired changes:

“Changing speed limits is a legal process and there are numerous steps we need to carefully follow. The SH30 Tikitere to Whakatane speed review consultation took place just as the new Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2022 was being signed off, and came into effect May 2022. This means we will be implementing new speed limits under the new Rule and we’re working through this process at the moment. We hope this will be done in time for us to announce the corridor decision by Christmas”.

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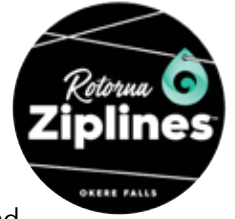


Sculpture Enhances Gisborne Point's New Boat Ramp and Park

KOMUHUMU PA (Gisborne Point) was a large and significant settlement. It is one of five pa sites located within a kilometre of the new boat ramp. Komuhumu Pa was a Pa Tuwatawatu (fortified village) and during its time was the site of many skirmishes.

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Over the past few years 10,000m2 of gorse has also been cleared on the right hand side of the Okere Awa.

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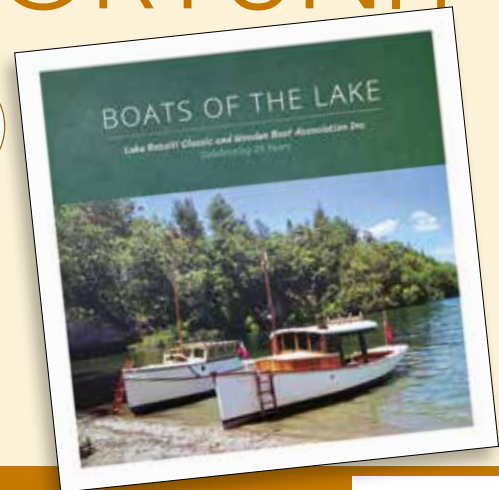
A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY

FOR LRCA MEMBERS

For many years our Classic and Wooden Boat Association committee dreamed of making a coffee table style book picturing and detailing some of the history surrounding the club, the boats and people of Lake Rotoiti. Then, during lockdowns, a small group of our committee members produced a coffee table style book of interest to anyone who knows the lake and likes the look of classic and old wooden boats.

Boats of The Lake is full of beautiful photos taken at events spanning the 25 years since the club began, and it has many stories about locals and their boats around the lake.

Our club members have purchased most copies, but we still have a small number of books we can make available to others who love the lake. People just like you! And, absolutely yes, they would make ideal presents for your friends or family members who have visited and fallen in love with the lake too.



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The Tipu Mātoro National Wallaby Eradication Programme

WALLABY SIGHTINGS

Dama wallabies were introduced to the Rotorua Te Arawa lakes area in 1912 and since then have steadily increased in both number and range. With a huge appetite for native plants, wallabies change the forests' structure, compete with livestock for pasture, damage fences and planted forest seedlings.

While wallabies are nocturnal and typically shy creatures; you may well have seen them. Unfortunately, it's estimated that if left unchecked, they could spread to cover one third of New Zealand over the next 50 years.

The Tipu Mātoro National Wallaby Eradication Programme which was formed in 2020 has a vision to achieve a wallaby-free Aotearoa. The strategy is based on first stopping the spread of wallabies by eliminating populations outside of the containment area, then systematically working inwards towards the core of their distribution. As part of this strategy a wallaby-proof fence has been installed in the vicinity of the Ōkere falls to prevent their further spread west.

There are several options for people who live within the containment area to reduce wallaby numbers on their own land which the wallaby programme staff can advise on.

We encourage the reporting of all wallaby sightings via www.reportwallabies.nz as this helps our understanding of wallaby distribution across the region and to facilitate the rapid deployment of contractors with indicating dog to identify populations of wallabies from new areas.



For further information please get in touch with
Davor Bejakovich, Programme Leader: 027 262 3062
or **Dale Williams, Bay of Plenty Regional Council Biosecurity Officer: 021 707 975.**

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
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HITTING A MASSIVE MILESTONE

Te Arawa Catfish Killas

The Catfish Killas are having another steady season with our netting programme on Lake Rotoiti. We recently surpassed 10,000 catfish caught by volunteers since 1 Jan 2022. Data capture has been much stronger this year.

We have had Rotokawa, Te Rangihakahaka, Lynmore and Malfroy schools regularly monitoring our nets at Te Weta Bay, and St Chad's monitoring our nets set at Te Akau Scenic Reserve this year. Maatua Whangai will be helping out at this spot for the next few weeks due to increased numbers being caught here. We are nearing the end of the school year which means we will be looking for some extra help to monitor our nets while tamariki are on school holidays. A roster will be put together and will begin around the middle December so get your name in there!

Monitoring is taking place in the Okere Arm, near the outflow of the Ohau diversion wall after some residents noticed increased presence of catfish around their lakefront properties. Please get in touch if you reside on the lake in this area and would like a net to set and check.

Te Arawa Lakes Trust will also begin fyke netting using a boat in wider areas of the western side of Lake Rotoiti.

Saturday 1 October was Trout Season Open Day. We set up at Otaramarae to have a korero on the importance of Check, Clean and Dry to stop the spread of aquatic pests.

We have also recently deployed some artificial catfish habitat burrows in Te Weta Bay; the aim being catfish will use these burrows made from planter boxes, buckets and old gas



bottles to lay their eggs, to which we will then remove the artificial burrows while the eggs and parent pairs are still inside. We hope this will remove thousands of catfish eggs and breeding pairs at the same time. This project is in its trial phase and results are expected over the coming months.

If you are interested in helping us out, please send us a message on the Te Arawa Catfish Killas Facebook page or send an email to catfishkillas@tearawa.iwi.nz.

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Lake Structure Resource Consents

A subcommittee working group of LRCA recently met with Te Arawa Lakes Trust (TALT) and Bay of Plenty Regional Council to discuss the TALT submission following the applications for new consents for lake structures. The objective is to endeavour to reach agreement in principle to mitigate the issues submitted by TALT, in order to avoid, if possible, a Commissioner Hearing.

The discussions included the key topics of:

- term of consent;
- koura and habitat retaining walls;
- private boat ramps and biosecurity checks on lakewood.
- draft conditions and advice notes were also discussed. LRCA undertook to consider these matters and discuss further.

A further meeting will follow up on the discussions. In the meantime, 30-year Consents have been issued by Council for those structures assessed as 'less than minor adverse cultural effects'.

Your hard working LRCA working group has had a follow

up meeting with TALT and Regional Council. There was discussion on the proposed conditions to apply to new Consents as a result of TALT's submissions. One of the factors leading to TALT's preference for only 10 year consents was their desire to participate in generational decision making. LRCA submitted a conceptual proposal to form a (say) two yearly meeting forum with representatives from TALT, Council and LRCA, to discuss cultural and environmental concerns, and other matters of mutual interest.

We also had further discussions with the Council on their draft conditions.

We remind you that LRCA's engagement with TALT and Regional Council is endeavouring to achieve potential solutions to achieve renewed Consents. You will decide if that is acceptable to you, or if you wish to pursue your own outcomes.

With 2022's end in sight, we will provide a further update at our 2023 AGM, and provide the opportunity for you to ask questions.

We look forward to seeing many lake structure owners there.

BOPTYS

Bay of Plenty Trailer Yacht Squadron - Okawa Bay

Around for nearly 50 years, BOPTYS, has currently 131 memberships.

Approximately 60% of our membership comes from out of town. There is a wide variety of yacht use; some use their boats at least weekly, for others it is more a summer holiday vessel. Some yachts are trailered to other waters; some compete in other club events. For all, Lake Rotoiti is prized for its varied sailing and beautiful, sheltered bays.

BOPTYS tries to maintain its most used bays, cleaning the toilets, weed extraction etc. We run a very popular hardstand to keep up to 105 boats.

Racing:

- Wednesday evening sailing throughout the summer season, alternating Olympic (windward/leeward short course) and Lake races. A BBQ follows.
- One off long lake events such as the Allan Civil Memorial Race; Round Rotoiti race
- Monthly Sunday series, one during both winter and summer
- We host regattas usually in March
- Ladies Race and picnic, Night Race, Single-handed and Seamanship scheduled



Cruising (Social):

- A popular themed fun Rum Race to a beach down the lake with a club breakfast the next day
- Sundowners, pot lucks, get-togethers down the lake arranged on long weekends. Easter egg hunt.
- Brass Monkey fun trophy in winter
- Mystery cruises and treasure hunts are very popular

Other:

- Safety and Training: held over 2 days.
- Off water activities in winter e.g. quiz night, 10 pin etc
- Christmas celebration; Prizegiving dinner

Lake Rotoiti Bathymetry

GNS Science has published a detailed bathymetry of Lake Rotoiti. A version can be downloaded for free at:

www.shop.gns.cri.nz or on our website under the Social tab.

Contact: Secretary@boptys.org.nz

Website: www.boptys.net

Commodore: **Leonie Kibblewhitel**

Fish & Game Report 2022

Opening day on the Rotorua lakes was celebrated by a hardy bunch of enthusiastic fishers. The weather, some of the worst in almost twenty years, kept a few anglers away but failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the hardy!

As usual Lake Rotoiti didn't disappoint those that ventured out. The 2-year-old hatchery releases were 7mm longer, but 100g lighter than last year (so of slightly lower condition) than the opening of 2021. Putting that into perspective however, the 2021 opening fish were quite exceptional. A 700mm 4.1kg, 3 year old hatchery released rainbow took the heaviest Rotoiti fish weighed by Fish & Game for the day.

Lakes Okataina and Tarawera both performed well. Tarawera produced some stunners that were on average 210g heavier than the last opening – perhaps a sign of things to come for this lake? On Okataina fishing pressure was down and the fish a touch lighter than 2021. The best fish on Okataina tipped the scale at 3.9kg.

Typical of this time of year, trout are well spread throughout the water column with surface water temperatures sitting around 15 or 16 degrees Celsius at the end of October. All fishing



methods work in this situation, and although the fish aren't tightly congregated into one location, which can produce good catch rates, they are hungry and on the bite!

Looking forward as the summer temperatures heat up the lake's surface, we can expect the fish to gradually move to deeper water, but for the time being, enjoy fishing shallow with light tackle. **Tight lines.**

Mark Sherburn, Eastern Fish & Game



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LAKES WATER QUALITY SOCIETY SYMPOSIUM 2022

The LakesWater Quality Society Symposium 2022 was held on the 10 – 11 November 2022 at the Millennium Hotel, Rotorua. The Symposium attracted over 120 attendees from many groups and consisted of thirty-five presentations on topics related to lake research, freshwater restoration and the Rotorua Lakes.

The theme of the Symposium was: Get on The Boat — a call to action to become part of the LakesWater Quality Society advocacy. It is through strong community engagement and commitment that we retain our voice in important decision-making processes. Furthermore, it was a call for broader collaboration among all the agencies and science disciplines, and for the whole community to speak with a united voice and to take collective action.

The Symposium consisted of three topic areas, namely:

Legislative and regulatory changes over the last 5 years that are now affecting freshwater management. These covered:

The National Policy Statement – Freshwater.

Implementation of Te Mana O Te Wai (a framework to guide how all New Zealanders are to treat water resources).

Changes to the Resource Management Act; and

The interrelationship between a range of other regulations and environmental outcomes such as climate change, urban development, and land use change.

New and emerging challenges likely to cause ongoing stress to lake environments with an emphasis on the Rotorua lakes. These topics included:

Impacts of climate change and the need to take pre-emptive action to make freshwater systems more resilient.

Role of land use change to forestry and how forests can be part of better catchment management strategies.

Effect of both urban and rural intensification on water resources and the need for improved infrastructure and changed attitude towards protecting water resources.

Ongoing threat from the introduction of invasive pests (plants and animals) and strategies to prevent impacts.

Strategies to lock in the successes we have made for the Rotorua lakes, for markedly improving lake water quality in the future, and for deepening the social and cultural relationship to Lakes. These topics included presentations on:

- The Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes programme with an emphasis on strategies of continuing to improve the deed lakes (Lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti Ōkāreka and Okaro)
- Emerging management strategies for the Lake Tarawera complex
- Integrating land and water management
- Emerging tools to improve water quality management in catchments.

To summarise all that was covered over the two days, is well beyond the scope of this newsletter article – but if I pull some of the key conclusions from Warren Webber’s end of symposium summary – key take homes were:

For the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes there is no certainty that water quality mitigations will be completely effective and that there is still work to be done.

Research and science have a critical role as there must be clear evidence between cause and effect and that quality data and objective analysis is key.

Robust predictive tools such as integrated catchment models are critical and that new and faster assessment methods can markedly assist in reducing the risk of lost time, lost opportunity, and lost credibility.

Time matters and doing nothing will lead to further degradation of the lakes.

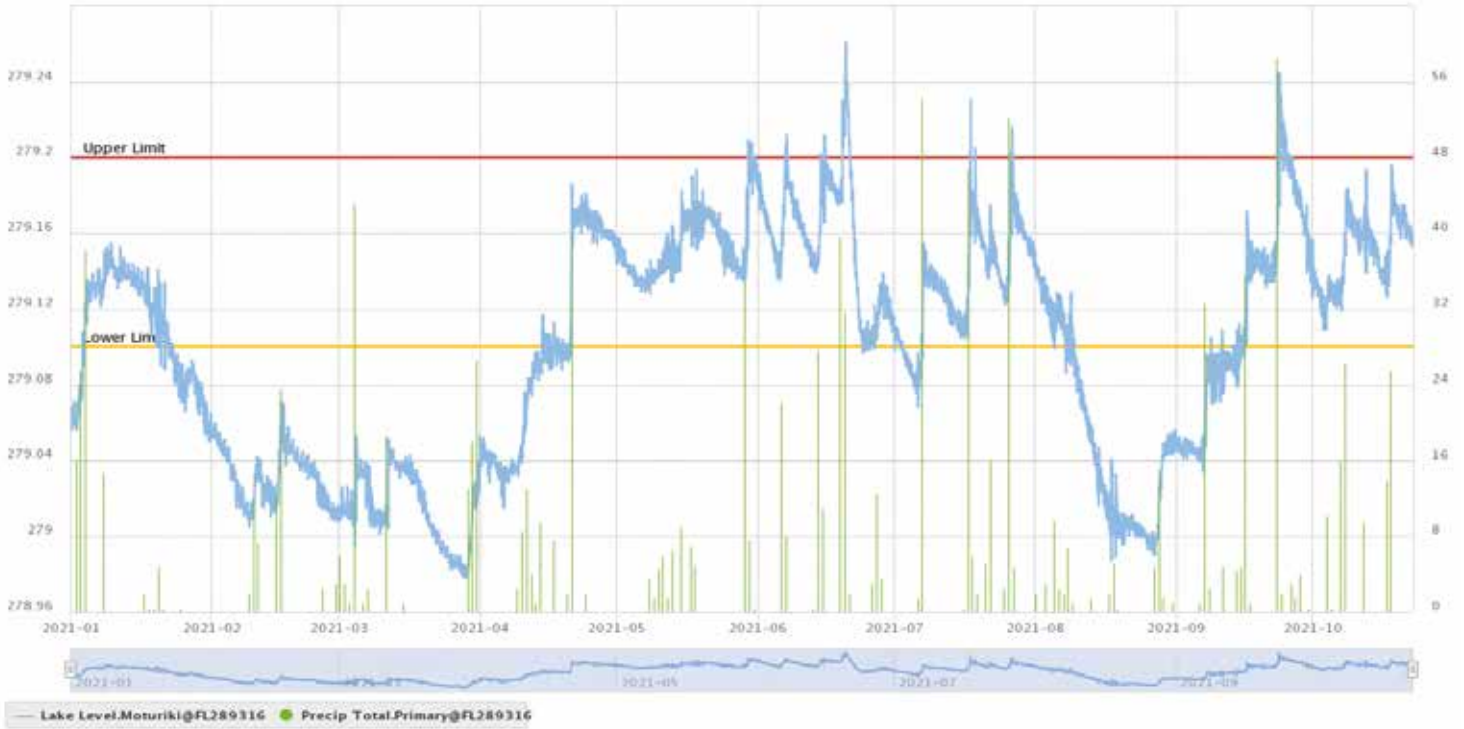
For Lake Rotorua contemporary loads of nutrients are frequently well more than target sustainable loads and that the interactions between climate, stratification, deoxygenation, and internal cycling of nutrients are complex and need to be better understood.

Partnership and collaboration across the community is critical for changing attitudes and ensuring that we care for the environment in a way that guarantees the mauri of water resources for future generations.

One behalf of the LakesWater Quality Society, I wish you all a safe and happy holiday. The Society is looking forward to 2023 when we can continue to advocate on behalf of the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes and ensure ongoing improvement in their water quality and biodiversity richness and nativeness.

John Gifford, Chair LWQ

BoPRC Application to Vary Conditions of Consent



Lake Rotoiti Lake Levels and Rainfall 1 Jan - 31 Oct 2022

The accompanying chart illustrates a year of two halves for Rotoiti lake levels through 2022 to date with the prevailing climate and operational consent conditions requiring Okere Gate outflows to equal or exceed inflows from Lake Rotorua invariably applying. This has again led to generally lower levels through summer and autumn, whilst several major rain events have contributed to levels remaining within or above the upper desirable range since June.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council’s (BoPRC) Application to vary the current Resource Consent to allow for a one-off drop to RL278.85m has been regularly reported in our mail-outs throughout the past two years or so. The Hearing before independent Commissioners finally took place in early September 2022 and the deliberations and decision have been published and circulated via our recent news update. To recap, the determination has:-

declined that part of the proposal ‘to deliberately draw down the lake below current operational minimums during the period from after Easter Monday to 30 June in any year’ but allowed for ‘drawing the Lake down from a level of RL 278.945m, if reached naturally during normal operations, to RL 278.85m (and held for a maximum of five days) on one occasion only at any time during the duration of the current

The determination now seems to provide a more liberal opportunity to generate a draw-down to the proposed level given the latitude allowing for an attempt at any time within the existing Consent period.

Consent (which expires in 2047) subject to certain specified conditions’.

This is the culmination of a proposal aired in early 2019 which then took two years of protracted consultation and environmental assessment. Due largely to the now standard process of engaging external contractors, this eventually lead to a formal Application with accompanying Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) being limited notified to a confined group of stakeholders only. The AEE, in our opinion, lacked some crucial explanatory detail which had been debated and agreed to between LRCA and BoPRC during the preliminary stages. The initial outcome was fairly predictable with most of the almost 100 submissions expressing significant opposition to the proposal based on the information provided.

Ironically perhaps, the determination now seems to provide a more liberal opportunity to generate a draw-down to the proposed level given the latitude allowed for an attempt at any time (and ostensibly any number of times) within the existing Consent period. As one of the specific bodies to be notified prior to any such attempt, LRCA will of course continue to look towards ensuring minimal disruption and optimal outcomes for its members and the community.

RLC MATTERS 2022

This year was dominated by Local Body elections and Rotorua was in the headlines for attempting to vary the make-up of Council via its proposed (Representation Arrangements) Bill presented to Parliament earlier in the year. Although the Bill passed the first reading in Parliament, it was subsequently 'paused' for further evaluation following unfavourable advice from the Attorney General's office. The proposal was also opposed by the Local Government Hearing Commission who decided that the composition for this election would be:-

- One Māori Ward consisting of 3 members
- One General Ward consisting of 6 members
- One Rural Ward consisting of 1 member

In the event, current Councillor Tania Tapsell was elected Mayor with the 10 Councillors comprising three sitting and seven new nominees (none of whom reside in Rotoiti). The four nominees for our Lakes Community Board were elected unopposed with Rotoiti members Phill Thomass (Chair) and Nick Chater representing our community. The two sitting Regional Councillors for Rotorua, Lyall Thurston and Kevin Winters, were also returned to office. LRCA again looks forward to maintaining its interaction with the Board and both Councils over this present term.

RLC ANNUAL PLAN 2022/23

Council approved the Financial Impacts of Year 2 of the 2021-31 Long-term Plan in June with key aspects being:- \$143m investment in core infrastructure and community assets;

- Investment in housing and developments, community safety and economic development;
- Completion and re-opening of Sir Howard Morrison Centre;
- Completion of lakefront and forest developments;
- Work to start on wastewater treatment plant upgrade, construction phase to start on Tarawera wastewater reticulation;
- Aquatic Centre upgrade to start, further progress on museum restoration;
- A debt increase of approximately \$84.4m, broadly in line with LTP;
- Average general rates increase of 5.7%.

This generally coincided with the LTP and it was noted that the average general rates increase of 5.7% was very much in line with existing inflation and impacts were similar across all sectors of the community.

REVIEW OF GOVERNMENT 3-WATERS REFORM

Also during the year, RLC resolved to not support the Government's Three Waters Reform proposal, identifying various issues surrounding a lack of clarity and consultation particularly in relation to the future and unique needs and aspirations of the Rotorua community. There remain many rumblings across the nation and final outcomes are awaited with interest.

On the local front, following a formal request by LRCA to review current non-reticulated water supply areas in Rotoiti, a report to the RLC Committee meeting of 7 July 2022 identified all such areas within Rotorua including Mourea, Okere, Otaramarae, Brunswick and West Rotoiti from existing supply area to Curtis Road. The report outlined source and supply options along with other matters needing to be taken into consideration along with indicative costs. We will be following progress during this current term of Council.

OTARAMARAE BOATRAMP

A report to the Lakes Community Board Meeting of 27 July 2022 advised that work at Otaramarae boatramp is challenging as Council has limited land and has been working with iwi to try and lease land (similar to the land leased at Waipuna Delta). Unfortunately no agreement has been reached to date with negotiations ongoing.

ŌKERE FALLS TO MOUREA PATHWAY

The completion of this long-awaited project has been subject to continuous unexpected delays by Waka Kotahi (NZTA). However, the end is in sight with the link section between the Waipuna Delta and Hamurana Road now under construction. It was satisfying to see extra funding approved to include the extension between Hamurana Road and the Ōhau Channel Bridge. The pathway is providing a valuable safe facility for cyclists and foot traffic, especially children, between the two local communities.

Cobblestone Paving

Retaining Walls

Fencing

Instant Lawn

Decking

Landscape Plans

2ton Digger and

Operator for Hire

Landscape Consultants

Exposed Aggregate Concrete

Project and Site Management



Paul Hammond

0274 923 161

paul@terrafirmabop.co.nz

www.terrafirmabop.co.nz



LAUNCH OF PROJECT

Protect Pōhutukawa

A pōhutukawa restoration project was recently launched at the urupā at Otaramarae with a karakia by the Ngāti Pikiao Lake Rotoiti Scenic Reserves Board. Forest & Bird initiated the project when the skeletal remains of trees were noticed around the lake and old, large trees suddenly died over the summer of 2021 from possum browsing. Pest control will protect the pōhutukawa and reserves, and honour Ngāti Pikiao who gifted these ancestral lands over 100 years ago for us all to enjoy.

The pest control will be done by the Te Arawa Lakes Trust kaimahi team. It involves trapping and poisoning of

possums to protect the pōhutukawa, and will also target rats and mustelids which predate the threatened dabchick. Pest control will be put in place at Te Arero Bay, Puketapu Point/Honeymoon Bay and Te Rerengaotemokai Point at Otaramarae.

The project is being supported by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council and the Department of Conservation.

For more information contact Kate Graeme:

021 254 4037

k.graeme2@forestandbird.org.nz

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AEDs Save Lives

Sudden cardiac arrest can happen any time

Below is a list of your nearest defibrillator. In a Medical Emergency call 111 Ambulance for access information, and also advise the operator of the defibrillator on the fire truck. They page West Rotoiti Volunteer Fire Unit who could be there a lot faster than an ambulance coming from Rotorua.

LOCATION	PHONE	ADDRESS
Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Te Rotoiti	077 362 7718	1620 State Highway 30, Tawhakarere Bay, Rotoiti Forest
VR Rotorua Lake Resort	027 314 1762	366 State Highway 33, Mourea, Rotorua
Rotoiti Sports & Community Assn / Rugby Club	07 362 7614	1297-1325 State Highway 30, Gisborne Point, Rotoiti Forest, outside main entrance
Manupirua Hot Pools	07 345 8070 or 0800 768 6484	Manupirua Bay (only accessible by water)
Lake Rotoiti Holiday Park	07-362 4860 or 027 314 1762	103 Okere Road, Okere Falls
Rotorua Rafting	0800 772 384	761 State Highway 33, Okere Falls
Kaituna Cascades Rafting Co	027 276 5457	18 Okere Falls Road, Okere Falls

From The Harbourmaster

The wild weather over the past three months has kept us busy replacing many of the navigation aids around the Lakes in preparation for the expected busy summer ahead. The Okawa Bay lead markers have had a birthday and locals will notice many of the 5knot buoys are shiny new ones also.

New Floating Sign: Very soon we will be installing a new floating sign in Otaramarae Rotoiti reminding all vessels that it is 600m to the 5 knot buoys and open speed area. Hopefully this will improve compliance and reduce the volume of calls we have from this area. We will also be installing a similar sign on Lake Okareka, both will be installed from the weed cordons. While it's been great to see the Lake levels recover most lakes are still very high and we have numerous call outs for logs, debris and even personal effects that have floated away from front yards! Please be vigilant when travelling around the Lakes as some of this debris has the potential to cause significant damage if struck at speed.

Wear Your Pfd: Tragically this year we have lost two kayakers in separate incidents on the Lakes highlighting the need to carry (and wear) your lifejacket (PFD-personal floatation device). Conditions can quickly change and it is easy to be caught out. Our patrol teams this season will be checking every vessel, jetski, kayaker and paddleboarder to ensure this rule is being followed. The rules are there to ensure everyone gets home safely!

We have **New Patrol Boat** on the water. Eke Ngaru is the latest acquisition to our patrol fleet and is dedicated to the Lake region. As well as patrolling she is used for survey work including water testing, structures compliance and assisting science teams. You will no doubt see her about the region this summer with our friendly patrol teams.

The best way to report poor boatie behaviour or any navigational safety matters is to call our 08005KNOTS call line. This is a 24/7 service and is worth calling as often we can redirect our patrols to an incident if we are close by.



Navigation Safety Bylaw Review - The Bay of Plenty Regional Council oversees maritime safety in the region under the Navigation Safety Bylaws required by the Maritime Transport Act (1994). The rules were established to help minimise the risk of fatalities, injuries, nuisance, accidents, collisions, and damage in Bay of Plenty navigable waters.

We are reviewing the Maritime Navigation Safety Bylaws for the Bay of Plenty region with the goal of having updated bylaws by mid to late 2023. The current bylaws have been in place since 2017 and we review them every five years. We are seeking feedback this summer to help guide changes to our bylaws.

To have your say on the Navigational Safety Bylaw Participate BOPRC go here:

www.participate.boprc.govt.nz/navigational-bylaw

Hauparu Bay Yacht Race

The annual yacht regatta at Hauparu Bay is held early in the New Year, usually between 2nd and 5th of January depending on the weather and participants.

Anyone outside Hauparu Bay interested in participating can contact Derek Nolan on derek@dereknolan.nz or in January can also call on 07 362 7066.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Fire, Police, Ambulance, Emergency	111
Police - Non Emergency	105
St John Ambulance	0800 785 646
National Poisons Centre	0800 785 646
Rotorua Police Station	07 349 9554
Rotorua Neighbourhood Support	07 349 9470
Owhata Medical Centre	07 345 5678
Power Companies - Unison	0800-286-476
Power Companies -Trustpower	0800 878 787
Energy Online Faults	0800 083 0285
Rotorua Lakes Council	07 348 4199
BOP Regional Council	0800 368 267
Rotorua Lakes Community Board - Phill Thomass	0275 474 455
SPCA	07 349 2955
Pollution Hotline (BOPRC) (24/7)	0800 884 883
Harbour Master (24/7)	0800 556 687
Dog Control (RLC)	07 348 4199
Dept. of Conservation	07 349 7400
M.P.I. - Ministry of Primary Industries	0800 809 966
Environment Pollution Hotline	0800 738 393
Fish & Game Eastern	07 357 5501
Fishing Licences	0800 542 362
Fish Poaching	0800 762 244
Lakes Maintenance (Ruebes)	07 362 4814
Pumps - Hi Flo Pumps 24/7	07 348 7516
Plumber - Foleys Plumbers	07 343 9060
Electrician - Hepburn Electrical 24/7	07 347 8491
Chris Smith Glass 24/7	07 348 5038
Emery's Store	07 362 7866
Happy Angler Store	07 362 4709
Mourea Mini Mart	07 362 4076
Okere Falls Store	07 362 4944
Rotoma General Store	07 362 0722
Manupirua Springs Hot Pools	07 345 8070
Waitangi Soda Springs	07 362 0788

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Weekly Household Refuse Collection

Collection day is Monday except on Christmas Day and Good Friday. All other public holidays run as normal. Red bin for rubbish, Yellow bin for recyclables, and Blue bin for bottles. Take lids off bottles. Bottles in cardboard boxes will not be picked up. Some areas use bags, only RDC Official bags will be collected. Residents are entitled to 52 plastic council bags each rating year (1 July to 30 June). These can be picked up from Smart Environmental office in the corner of the Recycling Centre, 24 Te Ngae Rd.

REFUSE & RECYCLING – OKERE TRANSFER STATION

Located at Okere Road (just south of SH33)
Hours: Recycle materials and Council issued rubbish bags may be placed in the relevant containers 24/7 (This service is free of charge – please respect it)
The Transfer Station is open:
Thur 8.30am – 12pm, Sun 8.30am – 12pm and the last day of every public holiday period. *The Transfer Station is never open on Christmas Day.*
Landfill fees apply
Domestic waste only
NO Trucks
NO Hazardous Waste

THE RECYCLING CENTRE

24 Te Ngae Rd
Mon-Sat 7.30am – 4.30pm, Sun 9.30am – 4.30pm
For further information — 07-3484199

ROTORUA LANDFILL

Located off Atimuri Highway SH30
1.6km from Waipa Junction
Hours: Monday - Saturday 7.30am – 4.30pm
Sunday & Public Holidays 9.30am – 4.30pm
CLOSED: Christmas Day. Landfill Fees Apply.

MARINE VHF RADIO ROTORUA FREQUENCIES

Coastguard NZ offers a 24hr-7 day radio service on Channel 02

Visitors are encouraged to make trip reports (TR's) on this channel when using the Rotorua Lakes.

Emergency (May Day) calls are also made on CH 02 and by calling 111.

For boat to boat chat three frequencies are available:

- If boats are within sight: CH06 and 08
- If boats are not within sight or on different lakes use CH 64
- Channel 64 recommended for all chat
- All lake users are encouraged to join Rotorua Lakes Coastguard to support these services and the rescue boats
- Please contact Rotorua Lakes Coastguard at PO Box 892 to join. Your support is needed to provide the radio service. Or find us on www.coastguardrotorua.co.nz, www.coastguard.nz/regions/eastern-region/units/rotorua-lakes/ www.facebook.com/Coastguard-Rotorua-Lakes

MEDICAL SERVICES

ACCIDENT & URGENT MEDICAL CENTRE

Cnr Arawa & Tutanekai Streets, Rotorua
Phone 07 348 1000
Monday – Saturday 8am– 10pm.
Sunday 8am–11.30pm

ROTORUA HOSPITAL

Accident & Emergency Department
Off Arawa Street
Phone 07 3481199
(Call 111 for Ambulance Service)
Patient enquiries 07-3497977 (Mon-Fri)

LAKESCARE (URGENT) PHARMACY

Cnr. Arawa & Tutanekai Streets, Rotorua
Phone 07 348 4385
Open 7 days 8.30am–9.30pm

OWHATA PHARMACY

556 Te Ngae Road, Owhata
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Monday- Friday 8.30am-5.30pm
Closed Public Holidays

AEDS SAVE LIVES

Sudden Cardiac Arrest can happen any time—are you prepared?

IN A MEDICAL EMERGENCY CALL

111 AMBULANCE also advise the operator of the defibrillator on the fire truck. They page West Rotoiti Volunteer Fire Unit who could be with you a lot faster than an ambulance coming from Rotorua.

Information and locations of more defibrillators around the lake can be found on page 19.



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This newsletter is printed on sustainably produced paper from ECF (Elemental Chlorine Free) pulp sourced from farmed trees, it is manufactured under the strict ISO14001 Environmental Management System.

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