

# Lake Rotoiti Ratepayers & Residents Association

Kia Ora from Lake Rotoiti

January 1994

We have seen real evidence of summer in recent weeks with some of the warmest temperatures experienced in the Rotorua region for many years. The weather has coincided with the holiday period to bring out many visitors, not to mention absentee owners of property around the lake. Everyone seems to be making the most of it as witnessed by the large influx of boats using the lake.

There is a general consensus that lake conditions have continued to improve. Certainly, many areas of the lake have experienced less weed concentration this year. Whilst cooler temperatures have no doubt contributed to suppression, there is also a belief that the removal of sewage disposal directly into Lake Rotorua has resulted in a more accelerated effect than anticipated. However, it has been noted that a large mass of weed has recently appeared in the middle of Lake Rotoiti and DOC are reportedly in the process of re-spraying this area.

## PROPOSED ROTORUA DISTRICT PLAN

Rotorua District Council have just released the above document which has been developed over the past two years to meet the requirements of the Resource Management Act. The Plan promotes the sustainable management of natural and physical resources within the district. It contains discussions of issues and strategies relating to rural, residential, commercial and industrial development along with amenities such as the lakes and reserves, natural hazards e.g. earthquakes and volcanic activity, and public utilities (stormwater and sewerage infrastructure, etc). The Plan divides the district into a number of zones and describes activities which can take place as of right, those which require Council consent and those which are prohibited because of their negative effects. Any member of the public has the opportunity to make submissions on the contents of the plan prior to 1 April 1994. Copies of the Plan are available for viewing at the Civic Centre or Public Library.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for the 1994 year fall due on 28 February and it is intended they remain at \$10 per family. It should be noted that the Association derives its income solely from subscriptions along with some advertising space in the twice yearly newsletter. The major expenditure is incurred in producing and distributing our newsletters whilst other costs involve ongoing administration and incidentals. Apart from a small honoraria which may be paid to the secretary and treasurer each year the committee operates on a purely voluntary basis. Only financial members are eligible to vote at meetings but it is reiterated that the Association works for the benefit of all ratepayers and residents within the Lake Rotoiti district. So once again, we welcome the support of both existing and new subscribers. You will find an appropriate cut-out form elsewhere in this newsletter or subscriptions may be paid at the AGM.

## CENTRAL MOUREA ROADING DEVELOPMENT

Transit New Zealand is to fund the continuation of kerbing and channelling from the bottom of the Mourea hill (Okawa Bay Resort) through to the Ohau Channel overbridge. To complement this, Council has earmarked \$35,000 to provide stormwater reticulation from Ngareta Road into Lake Rotoiti. This will relieve some of the problems experienced in central Mourea for many years. This project

Chairperson:  
Lovelace Leary  
Tel: 362 4635

Secretary:  
Mary Stanton  
Tel: 362 4690

All Mail:  
c/- Happy Angler Store  
Mourea

Fax: 362 4876

for stormwater reticulation and kerbing and channeling for central Mourea is reportedly back on course after a hic-cup in funding and land acquisition. Expected completion date is now April - May 1994.

#### RATIFICATION OF GRANT TO LAKE TARAWERA RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

In late February 1993, the Association was approached by a sub-committee group from Lake Tarawera Ratepayers Association with a request for financial assistance towards a legal challenge being mounted in a bid to overturn a land use consent approved by Rotorua District Council in respect of a proposed property development on Kariri Point.

Kariri Point is a prominent headland extending into Lake Tarawera and has significant heritage and amenity values. Two thirds of it is Maori Reserve, set apart for the purpose of recreation, a landing reserve and as a place of historic interest. The rest is privately owned and has a proposed scenic reserve designation on it. It is this portion that the owner sought to develop into a multi-dwelling residential complex and for which Council consent was eventually given despite some 80 objections to the scheme.

As a consequence, Tarawera Ratepayers voted overwhelmingly to appeal the decision before the Planning Tribunal, the prime reasons being that the consent was inconsistent with the proposed scenic reserve designation and did not recognise the natural character, scenic and heritage values of the promontory, nor did it provide sufficient protection for them. The cost of this initial action was in the region of \$26,000, the majority of which had already been pledged by Tarawera members. Because of the affinity between the Lake Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okareka Associations, and the mutual effect of such a consent, Tarawera sought to present its case to the other two bodies with a request for financial assistance. Following a lengthy hearing and debate on the matter, your committee unanimously agreed that the issues and principles involved were of sufficient importance as to warrant our full support. It was resolved that a grant of \$1,000 be made to Tarawera Ratepayers Association, the gratuitous nature of which would be subject to the ratification of our financial members.

As many will already be aware, the action brought by Tarawera was successful, with the Planning Tribunal overturning the Council decision. The developer immediately lodged a High Court appeal which has yet to be given a hearing date. Tarawera has applied to the Planning Tribunal for costs but this will not be considered until the appeal has been heard. Indications are that it is unlikely that full costs will be recovered. There is also an obligation by Tarawera to consider further payments to their legal advisors. This is a landmark decision and one which has every chance of being upheld by the High Court. It has set a precedent which will have important ramifications in any future proposals for inappropriate lakeside development. Our contribution was given in the belief that we were aiding a cause where significant principles were at stake. For this reason, we are of the opinion that the advance to Tarawera should be approved as gratuitous. We will be seeking such ratification at the impending AGM.

#### RURAL REFUSE SKIP SITES

Discussions are still taking place with RDC over suitable locations for these refuse facilities. All west Rotoiti ratepayers would have recently received a letter from Council outlining several areas within the locality which they consider may be suitable sites for this purpose. They requested comments and suggestions regarding these and other possible sites. We hope that as many as possible took the opportunity to respond. The committee will resume contact with Council on the matter early in the new year.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

JANUARY 1994

It is my pleasant duty to present this report on the 1993 activities of the Lake Rotoiti Ratepayers and Residents Association. You will recall that our elected chairperson, Lovelace Leary, became ill shortly after our last AGM and has since decided to remain on the sideline as it were in the interest of her continued recovery. We respect the wishes of both Lovelace and her family and look forward to an ongoing participation in our affairs as her health improves. I must also record the committee's sadness over the death earlier in the year of our valued and respected colleague Betty Whata. Betty was a well-liked member of our team and her untimely departure left a large gap in East Rotoiti representation which has yet to be filled.

Although perhaps maintaining a relatively low profile, the Association has been pro-actively involved in a considerable number of issues over the past year. Inevitably, several of these remain unresolved whilst others, such as weed spraying, animal control, crime prevention and the like are perennial topics for discussion.

The new mandatory requirement for territorial bodies to produce an Annual Plan detailing their proposed policies and objectives along with the estimated costs and source of funds required to achieve these aims, provides interest groups as well as individuals with an important opportunity to scrutinize and comment before decisions are finalised. Once again this Association took advantage of this process of consensus and accountability to make submissions to both Rotorua District and BOP Regional Councils. In particular, we noted that the Rotorua District Council had made no provision for either the implementation of the Mourea Water Scheme or ongoing research into the sewerage of lakeside settlements. The result was that both of these projects gained inclusion in the final plan with an objective to undertake preliminary design work on the Mourea Water Scheme and prepare a document for presentation to the community by 30 June 1994.

I believe that RDC should be commended for the progress made towards their major capital works programme of redeveloping the Central Business District, lakefront and Government gardens. Most noticeable achievement to date is in the lakefront area which has been transformed into a most aesthetically pleasing complex. Whilst no one will deny that the visual quality of the water at Rotorua lakefront continues to frustrate the best efforts so far, significant enhancements to the image of Rotorua are never-the-less being made. Notwithstanding our support for these large scale projects within the urban district, we continue to remind Council of their obligation to provide equitable service and funding to the various rural communities to whom they are also responsible.

It is pleasing to witness the ongoing improvement in the overall water quality of Lake Rotoiti. The annual spraying programme was carried out recently and, although some localised problems still exist, a number of areas are noticeably better off this year. It is probably fair to say that the cooler and more equitable weather conditions that have prevailed for a good part of the year have contributed to the suppression of waternet in particular. Only time will show whether long term benefits have accrued from efforts to control weed growth.

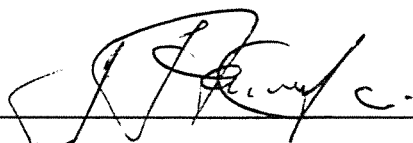
Our Association, along with Eastern Region Fish and Game Council, and local Anglers Clubs have fought a long-running battle with relevant authorities and the private owners and operators in efforts to curtail the navigation of the Ohau Channel by the commercial catamaran, Scat Cat. We feel sure that we reflect the concerns of many of our own residents and ratepayers in protesting against the ecological damage to fish spawning redds and the channel environment itself which we believe this craft, because of its size and disposition, is responsible for. Despite our direct efforts along with media exposure, we have so far failed to attract any favourable

response. A petition is currently being circulated in a further attempt to redress the situation.

During the month of June, the committee undertook a major exercise in compiling a newsletter for mailing to every known ratepayer and resident under our umbrella. Some 950 letters were mailed in an endeavour to publicise our existence and level of activities across the whole of the locality. We appreciate the many favourable comments and messages of support received but were a little disappointed with the relatively small number of financial subscribers (136). As stated in the newsletter, our committee is 100% voluntary but there are still administrative and incidental costs which can only be met from subscription income. We strive to act upon the requests of all local constituents and do our best to represent their views to the relevant authorities. I believe that we have a respected voice in the affairs of the district. The continued support of both current financial members and new subscribers is essential for the Association to operate effectively and successfully.

Finally, let me take this opportunity of expressing my sincere gratitude to all committee members for their splendid support and contribution during the year. I have enjoyed my involvement with the Association and again offer myself for re-election. New faces are always welcome and there is an especial need for representation from the eastern end of the lake.

JIM STANTON  
Acting Chairman



**LAKE ROTOITI RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**TE TAKINGA MARAE - MOUREA**

**ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND - MONDAY 31 JANUARY 1994 AT 10 am**

**MEET OUR MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS**

***EVERYONE WELCOME - NAU MAI HAERE MAI***

**LAKE ROTOITI RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM  
FOR THOSE RATEPAYERS NOT YET MEMBERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION**

**JOINING FEE & SUBSCRIPTION \$10**

**NAME \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_**

**SEND ALL MAIL TO:     The Secretary  
Lake Rotoiti Ratepayers Association, PO Mourea, Happy Angler Store, Rotorua.**

## SCAT CAT

The tourist catamaran, Scat Cat, remains a cause for concern as it continues to ply through the Ohau Channel on an almost daily basis. With the channel at its lowest level for a number of years, the Scat Cat again grounded on several occasions in recent months. We were alarmed also by the appearance in October of steel poles embedded in the Delta entrance presumably to act as navigation markers. Apart from being illegal, they presented a danger to other users and were removed following our complaints. A petition requesting a hearing by RDC's Management Committee has been circulating the local stores and camps in recent weeks and has been very well supported. We expect to seek an audience with RDC in the near future to voice our concerns and present evidence accumulated over the time in which this craft has been operating.

## SNIPPETS

The BOP Regional Council placed several bails of barley straw around the Okere Arm as an experiment to suppress waternet. Local residents are sure it is working!

Thorald Clark passed away in November at the age of 98. Always interested in local affairs, Thorald was very much part of the Okere community and is sadly missed.

A group from the Rotorua Volunteer Coast Guards regularly visit Honey Moon Bay to maintain this beautiful spot. They recently rebuilt the seat, tables and toilets that we all appreciate.

## LAKE MAINTENANCE

NOEL & SUZANNE RUEBE

### OKERE FALLS

LAWNS - GARDENS - RUBBISH REMOVED - TREES CUT -  
PROPERTY SECURITY - PUMP MAINTENANCE - PAINTING -  
TRACTOR WORK - SOIL & METAL CARTAGE - BOAT HIRE -  
BOAT MAINTENANCE

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P.O. BOX 495 ROTORUA

### FOR RELIABILITY AND EXPERIENCE



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## LIQUOR STORE

Our Off Licence is open  
9.00am - 7.00pm

Monday - Saturday

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wines and spirits for your convenience  
and our prices are sharp.

Cans from \$11.95 a dozen. Gin &  
Vodka from \$21.95. Bulk spirits  
from \$8.00 a litre.

by Boat or by Car, you know where we are



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| • FIREWOOD          | • WATER TANKS & PUMPS REPLACED & MAINTENANCE |
| • ANIMALS CARED FOR |  |
- AND ALSO FOR THE OUT OF TOWNS
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  - YOUR BOATS CLEANED AND READY TO GO

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OKERE FALLS • ANYTIME

## FENCING OF LAKE ROTOITI

You may have read recent reports advocating fencing off parts of Lake Rotoiti as another step in reducing nutrient input to the lake, (mainly from farming stock). The chief proponent has been one of our BOP Regional Councillors, Wendy Lynch. The subject was aired at an association meeting with our regional councillors and, whilst we partly agreed in principle with the general concept, we cautioned that there were a number of debatable issues involving several interest groups which would have to be settled prior to an acceptable plan being reached. Incidentally, Wendy and her family have sold their well-known property, 'The Patch' and moved to Ohope. She will, however, continue working for the Rotorua constituency as a regional councillor.

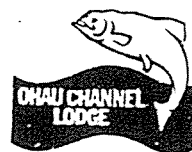
## SPEEDING MOTORISTS

As a result of concerns expressed about excessive speeds on secondary roads within the Okere area where there are residential concentrations, RDC has recently decreed that all such roads are to be gazetted with a 50 kph restriction.

## TE NGAE POLICE STATION

We are delighted to see the completion of the new Police Station situated within the Te Ngae Shopping Centre. This facility is now operating with a staffing level of 13 under the command of Snr Sgt Phil Spackman and will undoubtedly benefit the eastern district including Lake Rotoiti as evidenced by recent increases in patrols throughout our area. Thefts from cars, unoccupied homes, and boats especially during the holiday period, are still giving cause for concern and we urge everyone to be vigilant and report any suspicious occurrences immediately. There are a number of Neighbourhood Support Groups operating with the district and we commend them to anyone wishing to join an existing group or set up one of their own.

## OHAU CHANNEL LODGE



On shore of Lake Rotorua with Ohau Channel running through grounds.

World class trout fishing on your doorstep.

Cabins - Tourist Flats - Family Baches - Sites For Caravans, Tents and Campervans. Private Marina. Access to Lake Rotorua and Rotoiti via Channel. Store. All Fishing Gear for Hire. Mineral Spas. Fishing Guides. Fishing School.

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**OHAU CHANNEL LODGE**

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## Okawa Bay Tearooms & Takeaways

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Fresh fish available daily



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Mourea  
PH: 362 4722



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## MOUREA HAPPY ANGLER STORE

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- ★ VIDEO FOR HIRE ★
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- Fishing Licences - Lures
- Historic Photo Collection -

Phone 362 4709  
Ken & Ita, Dereda & Kalym

## WEST ROTOITI VOLUNTEER FIRE UNIT

The unit has completed its tenth year of operation with another very busy year. We attended numerous callouts, some to substantial fires and road accidents. We hosted the annual competition between local volunteer units (and won a few trophies) and sent teams to the nationals held at Okataina. This last event had teams from all over NZ and we were very pleased with the performance of our teams, particularly our womens team which won a national trophy.

At our AGM in 1993 it was decided to proceed with registration with the National Rural Fire Authority via their agent Rotorua District Council. To do this we are retaining the current incorporated society (WRVFU) and have established a "new" registered group made up of the active fire fighters (West Rotoiti Volunteer Fire Force). By agreement, the WRVFU will allow the new fire force to use the assets of the incorporated society. This ensures that the ownership of assets stays in the local community. We have had to define boundaries for our area of coverage, and have included all areas bounded roughly by the following; SH 33 to district boundary towards Paengaroa, Otaramarae, Okere Falls, Mourea (including Mission Bay), SH 33 to Whakatane turnoff (incl Mataikotere Marae), SH 30 to Tikitere Hill (incl Kiwi Ranch), Cherry Bay (Kotorinoa Point), Honeymoon Bay (Puketapu Point), Rotoehu Road to junction with Pongakawa valley Road and a line across country to SH 33 (incl Maniatutu Road). If requested the unit will also attend fires outside of this area.

The unit has recently renegotiated its station lease with representatives of the Te Kai Ngahu Trust. We appreciate the ongoing support of the trust and other members of the community.

Please respect the summer restricted fire season, and get a permit at all times of the year if you are within 1.5 km of a reserve. Contact Rotorua District Council or Department of Conservation for permits or any queries about them. Remember to ring 111 to report a fire.

Contact the unit if you need a water tank filled or have some rubbish you would like to dispose of with a controlled burn (ph Willie Shaw 3624546, Noel Ruebe 3624814, Ted Boucher 3624815, Keith Wyatt 3624639).

Thanks for your support for the previous year. All the best for 1994.

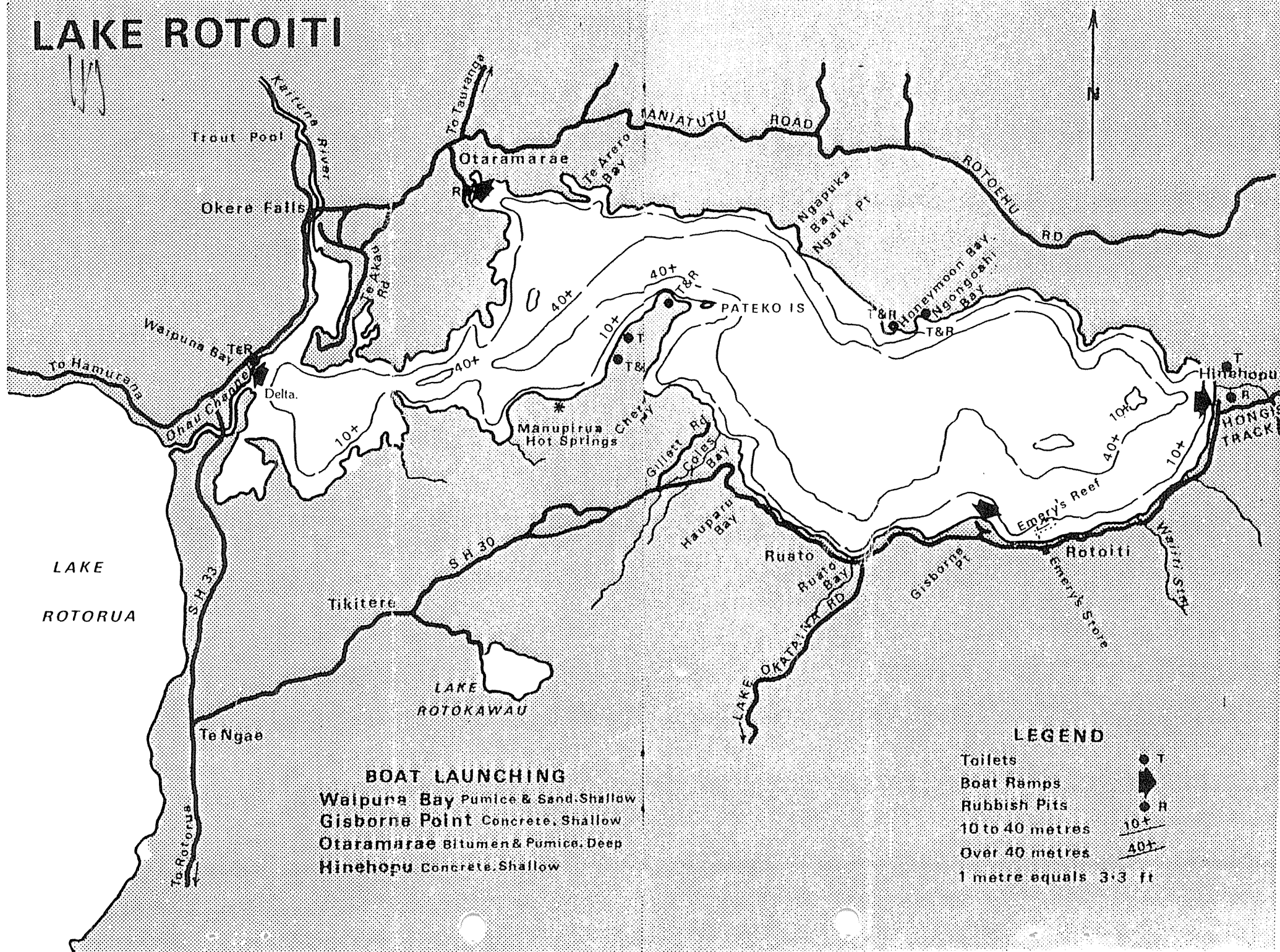
Subscriptions (\$10-00) are now due. Please send to:  
Liz Miller (Treasurer WRVFU) Te Akau Road RD4 Rotorua.

Amount Enclosed:

Name and Address:



# LAKE ROTOITI



LAKE  
ROTORUA

**BOAT LAUNCHING**  
 Waipuna Bay Pumice & Sand, Shallow  
 Gisborne Point Concrete, Shallow  
 Otaramarae Bitumen & Pumice, Deep  
 Hinehopu Concrete, Shallow

## LEGEND

Toilets T  
 Boat Ramps R  
 Rubbish Pits H  
 10 to 40 metres 10+  
 Over 40 metres 40+  
 1 metre equals 3.3 ft