

Lake Rotoiti Ratepayers & Residents Association

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 1995

Kia Ora from the Lake

It had been intended to send out a mid year newsletter to financial members. However, because of our commitment to the somewhat arduous task of responding to the several voluminous and complex Plans and Strategies produced by local statutory bodies around that period, we found it difficult to produce a meaningful product with our limited resources in time and manpower. We hope to provide more frequent communication in the coming year. It has been resolved, once again, to mail this newsletter to every known ratepayer and resident within our boundary which means close to 1000 property owners and occupiers receiving a copy. Disappointingly, many chose, for whatever reason, not to take the opportunity to be part of a collective voice for the area. The subject of membership is addressed separately in this issue. We sincerely hope that you find the contents interesting and informative and look forward to your comments and support which is vital if we are to maintain an effective role in matters of mutual concern surrounding the well being of our lake and its environs. The Annual General Meeting of the Association is scheduled to be held at the Pikiao Rugby League Clubrooms in Takinga Street, Mourea at 10.00 am on Sunday, 15 January 1995.

As is customary, our local Member of Parliament, Max Bradford, along with District and Regional Councillors have been invited to attend to listen and respond to your concerns. An informal get together over light refreshments will follow the conclusion of the meeting. Everyone is welcome. Nau mai Haere mai

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE

LAKE ROTOITI RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

TO BE HELD

PIKIAO RUGBY LEAGUE CLUBROOMS

TAKINGA STREET MOUREA

10.00 am SUNDAY 25 JANUARY 1995

AGENDA:

- * Apologies
- * Minutes of AGM held 31 January 1994
- * Chairman's Report
- * Financial Report
- * Subscription for 1995/6
- * Election of incoming Committee
- * General Business

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

JANUARY 1995

In writing this report, I extend seasons greetings to all lake dwellers and their families. With summer well and truly here, activities around the lake have heightened. The influx of absentee owners taking their annual vacation along with increasing numbers of visitors and tourists have swelled the population dramatically. Consideration for the environment and towards fellow citizens should remain constant in our minds as we take time out to enjoy various pleasure pursuits and generally relax within one of nature's true delights.

1994 has seen a deluge of Management Plans and Reports produced by the various local bodies. As a requirement of recent changes to legislation, most of these have invited public input in the form of written submissions which must be considered in determining the direction of the final document. As already noted, considerable time and effort has been expended in studying the contents and providing comment which we believe reflects the concerns or otherwise of the majority of members. Detailed accounts of these submissions are contained in the most recent newsletter.

The quality of our lakes and waterways, and especially Lake Rotoiti, is always uppermost in our minds. We have taken every opportunity to promote measures which will assist in maintaining their ecological stability. Lake levels and weed growth are constantly under surveillance and we have acted promptly in bringing concerns in this area to the attention of the relevant authorities. Perennial topics such as refuse collection, mowing, street lighting, animal control and crime prevention have also been aired where necessary.

The Kaituna River issue has caused considerable anguish amongst the various parties involved. Whilst the District Council finds itself in the invidious position of providing a happy medium between the increasing demands of commercial tourism and the interests of our Ngati Pikiao iwi and local residents, I believe that the apparent lack of urgency in dealing with the mounting concerns has been a direct cause of the current discontent. It is to be hoped that an equitable solution can be found in the near future although such a resolution may now prove that much harder to achieve.

I am sure most members will join me in congratulating Rotorua District Council on their progress in the redevelopment of the Central Business District. Whilst the city focus has been subject of varying comment, the huge uplift provided by the new terracotta and realigned kerbing and medians has attracted wide approval. We look forward to the completion of the new Civic Centre and other facilities targeted for improvement.

This Association has been fortunate during the past year to have been served by a committee whose efforts to foster and promote the interests of Rotoiti and its residents have been discerning and enthusiastic. I am indebted to them for their invaluable support and splendid contribution. Most, if not all, will be available for re-election although new faces are always welcome and there is still a dearth of representation from the eastern end of the lake.

May I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all who have supported and encouraged us throughout the year including our local Council members and staff. A continuation of this support from both existing and new members is essential for the Association to operate effectively and successfully. I look forward to meeting you at the AGM and wish each and everyone a happy and prosperous New Year.

JIM STANTON
Chairman

MEMBERSHIP

Many of you will vividly recall the controversial rating proposals of 1991 and the 'call to arms' of all rural ratepayers to fight the unfair impositions of such a scheme. The response was magnificent with over 400 subscribing to this Association and contributing additional funds towards the legal costs involved. Following the satisfactory outcome of this challenge it was accepted that those who had given more than the normal subscription would have their membership carried forward accordingly. At a recent AGM, it was agreed that membership renewal should again apply across the board. Perhaps because, since 1991, there has been no single issue significant enough to warrant the same level of intervention, subscriptions have steadily declined. This has been a matter of concern to the Committee, because of the impact it has on our 'clout' when pursuing issues on your behalf. As was seen during the rates issue, there is strength in numbers. Our Association is respected as one of the more pro-active ratepayer groups in Rotorua. It will continue to maintain this standing through the support of its membership. Once again, we respectfully ask that you give every consideration to becoming a financial member, either by renewal or as a new subscriber. If you have any queries regarding the role of the Association, do not hesitate to contact any of the committee, a list of whom can be found elsewhere in this issue.

Our subscription fee has been kept to a very modest \$10 per family and is due within one month of the Annual General Meeting held in January. There is no intention to increase the fee for 1995 although additional donations are welcome. A cut out form for this purpose is provided hereunder. This can be posted or handed to a committee member.

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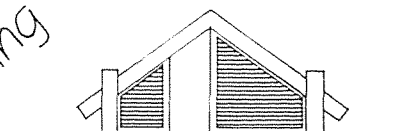
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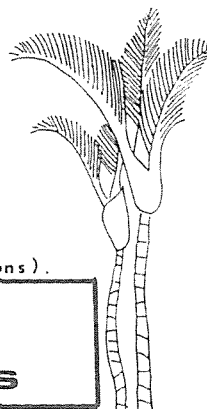
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SECRETARY	-	MARY STANTON, MOUREA, PH 3624690
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COMMITTEE	-	MAXINE LIDDELL, WAANA STREET, MOUREA, PH 3624652
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	-	ALAN MCLEAN, GISBORNE POINT, PH 3627606
CO-OPTED MEMBER	-	TED THORNE, KORORI, WELLINGTON, LOCAL PH 3624853
HONOURARY MEMBERS	-	TU KINGI, HIGHWAY 33 MOUREA/OKERE FALLS, PH 3624841
	-	LOVELACE LEARY, OTARAMARAE RD4, PH 3624635

DISTRICT AND REGIONAL ROUNDUP

Legislative changes over recent years in the form of the Resource Management Act 1991 and Local Government Amendment Act (No. 2) 1989 have been primarily aimed at making statutory bodies such as Rotorua District Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council along with a number of other Departments more accountable to those whom they serve. Whilst the resulting consultative processes provide us with a greater insight and more say in local affairs, it does not come without additional cost. Imagine, for example, the time and effort taken in, not only producing the Draft Rotorua District Plan (which incidentally is available for purchase at \$225 per set), but in compiling reports on the 2000 or so public submissions received, the full text of which is contained in 15 volumes each about 20-25 millimetres thick. Completion of the exercise involves calling for cross-submissions, collating these, hearing those organisations and individuals who wish to speak in support of their submissions, reviewing all information, and then deciding on the final content and producing what will be the Rotorua District Plan.

Whilst this may seem quite mind-boggling, it is, we believe, a necessary step forward in allowing people to have a greater say in the destiny of their communities. There are suspicions that it merely allows greater latitude to those individuals and organisations who have the strength and, personal expertise to 'push their barrow' as it were. And there are still many in officialdom who appear to find the process irritating and continue to adopt less democratic methods to achieve their own agendas. It would be remarkable if we were able to produce a system without flaws. None-the-less, this affords the best opportunity yet for each and every individual to have their say.

The squeaky wheel will not always get the oil but a silent one is assumed to be satisfied with its lot.

During the course of this year, we have taken the opportunity to express our views in relation to a number of documents produced by various local bodies.

These are summarised as follows:-

ROTORUA DISTRICT COUNCIL ANNUAL PLAN

The major thrust of this years Annual Plan was to provide the necessary funding base to allow a 'full steam ahead' policy for the completion of the City Redevelopment Project, and the major revamp of the Civic Centre and Art and History Museum. To accommodate this, Council proposed a 3.9% increase in rates. The Mayor said that, whilst this was above the level of inflation, there was "a community expectation for the City Redevelopment to now be completed quickly to take advantage of improving economic conditions and business and tourism growth."

In presenting a submission to Council, we objected in very strong terms to the size of the proposed rate increase. Whilst seemingly insignificant, it exceeded the then rate of inflation by 2.5%, followed a 2.9% increase the previous year, and would be on top of the final year of the transitional phasing in of the increased general rate for rural ratepayers. We expressed a belief that, whilst continuing to support the city redevelopment, we were not convinced that 'fast-tracking' its completion would greatly benefit those outside of the central city area. Council has expended a considerable amount of money in recent years in boosting Rotorua's tourism image. This high profile marketing has resulted in record visitor numbers with obvious spin-offs in economic growth. This has certainly assisted the drop in unemployment but we believe that much of the reward is being reaped by retail businesses, tourism operators and accommodation houses. Although somewhat tongue in cheek, to push the point we suggested that these major beneficiaries should make a greater contribution towards any accelerated progress on the city redevelopment. We also voiced alarm at the proposed levels of increase in public debt to assist the funding of these initiatives. We noted that it was not long ago when Councillors themselves expressed similar sentiments over the extent of this debt and the need for restraint. Our recommendation was that any rate increase be confined to a figure in keeping with the latest Consumer Price Index. On the strength of this and similar demands by many other groups and individuals, Council decided to relent and adopted an acceptable increase of 1.3%.

We also expressed further concerns at the lack of indicative commitment to the Mourea Water Supply Scheme. The new objective to "reach community agreement on details of the proposed supply by 31 December 1994" was seen as further delaying progress which had been agreed to the previous year. We insisted that this time frame be shortened. In the event, it was, but initial responses from residents have not been commensurate with previous support. This is addressed elsewhere in the newsletter.

We asked that we be party to future proposals for recreation and community facilities. In the past, decisions by Council to provide amenities such as playgrounds, boat ramps, jetties, toilet blocks and such like seem to have been made with little input from residents. As a significant voice in the District, we believe that this Association has entitlement to be consulted prior to any final decisions on policy and priorities being made. We put forward proposals to provide a playground at Gisbourne Point this financial year with further facilities including playgrounds, toilet blocks, picnic tables and barbecues to be considered for Hinehopu, Gisborne Point and Ruato Bay.

We noted with disquiet that there were occasions when Council Committee meetings have had to be postponed through lack of a quorum and welcomed recent initiatives to rationalise committees and/or meeting schedules to overcome the problem. Non-emptying of litter bins and projected works and engineering costs were other areas addressed in our submissions.

ROTORUA DISTRICT PLAN

As already noted, this Plan still in Draft form has attracted almost 2000 submissions which have now been documented and summarised. When finally approved, this Plan will provide for the direction and regulated activities within the District for at least the next 10 years. Because of the size and far reaching scope of this Document, your committee, in consultation with the Okareka and

Tarawera Associations, decided that, to maximise our chances of ensuring that all issues likely to impact on rural and lakeside development and environmental and ecological matters were addressed, we should engage the services of an appropriate Consultant to prepare submissions on our collective behalf. It was strongly believed that the importance of identifying any proposals which had the potential to be detrimental to our communities justified the not inconsiderable expense involved. The Combined Lakes Ratepayers Association was given the mandate to co-ordinate this action and, after debating several options, it was resolved to engage the Auckland consultancy of Connell Wagner Ltd to undertake the task at a cost of around \$400 to each Association.

Their representative, Andrew Gysberts has considerable experience in Statutory Planning and Resource Management especially with regard to local body affairs. Using our terms of reference, he presented his findings to a meeting of the Combined Committee where these were debated and amended in accordance with our wishes.

A glaring omission from the Plan is a specific section for the Rotorua Lakes. We believe that it is essential to set out the particular objectives, policies and rules for the sustainable management of these unique and environmentally important assets. This has been addressed in the submission sent to Rotorua District Council.

Rotoiti also made an individual submission primarily to address the lack of a specific strategy towards the containment of lakeweed. We noted that weed control measures were not a primary function of District Councils and neither did they have unlimited resources to tackle the problem. However, in recognition of the importance of the aesthetic quality of our lakes, not only for the enjoyment of local inhabitants, but as a principle attraction for visitors and tourists, there should be a commitment towards emphasising the need for ongoing intervention by Central Government agencies to facilitate these objectives.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION - DRAFT CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (CMS)

Under current legislation, each Conservancy District is required to prepare a CMS for all land, natural and historic resources within its care. BOP Conservancy presented its Draft Plan earlier this year. We welcomed the concept of an integrated Management Strategy as a more coherent medium for the promulgation of policies and objectives and one which gave greater opportunity for public consultation. It also illustrated the Departments role and objectives more clearly than in the past, where, to a certain extent, it has been viewed as a somewhat obscure body in the sense that its functions and authority have not been widely understood amongst the general public. Often, these mandates seem to conflict with those of Regional and District Councils.

In our submission, we once again drew attention to the apparent inadequacy of this document in addressing the problem of aquatic plant control. We suggested that this subject should have stand alone importance and be more clearly defined within Management priorities and objectives and recognise in a more discernable manner the necessity of providing sufficient resources for its containment and/or eradication.

We endorsed a concern regarding willow infestation of freshwater wetlands and noted with interest that this seemed to conflict with the policy of Environment BOP (Regional Council) which used willow and similar fast growing species to establish buffer zones adjacent to lakes and rivers. We also expressed a desire to see swans recognised as a pest in numbers and policy introduced to implement culling programmes where necessary.

PROPOSED ON-SITE EFFLUENT TREATMENT REGIONAL PLAN

Earlier this year, Environment BOP produced this document with the intention of formulating management strategies in an attempt to reduce the impact of non-reticulated sewerage systems on the Bay of Plenty environment.

This Association endorsed the Plan which essentially proposes a managed septic tank cleaning programme which would likely be administered by District Councils. We have, for some years, been lobbying both Regional and District Councils to

give some priority towards the implementation of reticulated sewerage schemes for Mourea, Okawa Bay, Gisborne Point and Hinehopu, in particular, which have been identified as areas suffering frequently from septic tank problems. We are, of course, not unaware of the large capital outlay which would be required to satisfy such requests. In fact, the objective of this Plan is to improve the effectiveness of existing systems where appropriate rather than discard them in favour of large sewage schemes.

However, we reiterated concerns that the proximity of residences to lake margins coupled with other adverse conditions such as high water tables and impermeable soils raised doubts over the long term suitability of on-site effluent disposal for many lakeside properties.

ROTORUA LAKES PROJECT LIAISON GROUP

This group was established earlier last year by BOP Regional Council to facilitate the preparation of the Rotorua Lakes Regional Plan under the provisions of the Resource Management Act 1991.

This followed a call from various interest groups, including ourselves for a single Rotorua Lakes Management Authority.

In the past, the diversity and separate responsibilities of the various agencies and groups involved in the Rotorua Lakes area have prevented effective co-ordination. The purpose of the Liaison Group is to bring statutory bodies, other research organisations, tangata whenua and community and ratepayer groups together to discuss and debate pertinent issues relating to the resource management of our lakes. An initial meeting was held in April followed by a further meeting in October. Whilst we would like to see the framework for the Regional Plan established as soon as possible, the complexity of the social, cultural and economic values placed on the lakes demands that the development, use and protection of natural and physical resources be managed in such a way as to provide for both the well-being of the present community and the needs to safeguard ecosystems and the environment generally for future generations. We are hopeful that the involvement of all parties in this manner will help to achieve this goal.

KAITUNA RIVER

During the course of the year 1994, management issues regarding the upper Kaituna River between the Okere Control Gates and the Trout Pools have become a political hot potato.

Frustrated by an apparent lack of urgency on the part of Rotorua District Council to adequately respond to various requests for stricter management controls of commercial activities upon the river, particularly rafting, Te Rununga O Ngati Pikiao, Council for local iwi, made application to the Ministry for the Environment to be granted approval as Heritage Protection Authority for the river, a status which gives the holder wide ranging powers over the resource concerned.

Taking advantage of recent legislative changes, Rotorua District Council pre-empted the Ministers decision by proposing their own Heritage Protection Order in an apparent bid to avert 'possible conflict between, a local interest group and commercial operators.' However, this move has now been challenged in Court by a power company, as yet unnamed and presumably one which has an eye on the river as a source of future electricity generation. RDC have also been reminded that the Rotoiti Scenic Reserves Board which controls the Okere Falls Scenic Reserve adjoining most of this stretch of river, including the river bed itself, has the legal authority to allow or disallow activities within the Reserve area regardless of what the Council does. Under the 1977 Reserves Act, the Board must act to protect the reserve for the benefit and use of the general public.

There will be many conflicting views on where the balance of authority should lie and what activities, if any, should be allowed on the river. We have expressed ongoing concerns since commercial rafting began to proliferate in early 1992. These concerns centred on the number of companies and the burgeoning

effect of their operations to the detriment of the general public, lack of facilities for changing and ablutions and the increased volume of vehicular and pedestrian traffic in an area noted for being potentially hazardous.

Although several meetings were held involving the various parties, RDC failed to implement the controls which we considered necessary to meet these concerns. We also suggested that a licensing system should be instituted with annual contributions for upkeep and maintenance.

The proposed Heritage Protection Order addresses these problems in part but we are not yet convinced that it provides the desired measure of control.

Submissions to the proposal close on 25 January 1995.

BLUE PRINT

With summer now upon us, people will be getting their pleasure crafts ready for the waves. Some people will discover things missing from their boats and because there can be no other explanation, the only conclusion is theft. Unfortunately these types of incidents will increase throughout the summer months. Thieves will target anything from fishing gear and skis to outboard motors. Boats and trailers are no exception.

Petrol tanks are also a common target with thieves. Owners should mark these with their name, address and phone number underneath. It's not often a thief will look underneath the tank to remove any identification.

They will steal from the water and steal from the land, any time of the day but usually at night.

Ensure your property can be identified. Lock it away when it is not being used. Report anything suspicious immediately. (What is anything suspicious? Examples include unexplained wet footprints inside your boat. Your boat has changed moorings overnight. Strange gear being left on your craft which may have been stolen from another boat and anything else unusual.)

Phone 111 in an emergency, or 3480099 (Rotorua Police), or 3453453 (Te Ngae Police). If you have any information about criminal activities and you wish to notify the Police anonymously, you can do so on our local Crimeline number, Phone 3469888.

Senior Constable G.W. ANURU
Community Constable
Te Ngae C.P.C.

S N I P P E T S

Elections for RDC are only months away so anyone fancying themselves as a district or regional councillor should get going pretty smartly. It was obvious during the last elections that many would be councillors left their run too late, with the result that mostly the same councillors were re-elected because the new aspirants just hadn't done the necessary groundwork well beforehand.

We understand that one of our North Ward District Councillors, Ross Aubertin, will not be standing again this coming election so the opportunity is there for some new blood to represent the Rotoiti District.

Our current North Ward Councillors along with Ross Aubertin are Charles Sturt and Knocker Dean who both reside in Ngongotaha.

Rotorua representatives to BOP Regional Council are John Keaney, Wendy Lynch (now living in Ohope) and Merepeka Sims.

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Lack of Transit funding prevented the central Mourea roading development from being commenced earlier this year. Recent information encourages a belief that the work will be achieved within this financial year with a February start date likely.

There have been a number of requests from residents around the lake for the Association to make a concerted approach to the relevant broadcasting authority regarding the establishment of suitable antenna for TV3 reception to such areas as Gisborne Point and Okawa Bay. We are in the process of formalising inquiries and welcome any further input from interested consumers.

The Government announced in September the introduction of amendments to Dog Control legislation to provide territorial authorities such as Rotorua District Council with enhanced powers to deal with irresponsible dog owners, dangerous dogs and offences against district by-laws. We frequently hear of incidences of dogs straying, worrying stock or causing a nuisance. The onus is on the small minority of irresponsible owners to acquaint themselves with legislation and local by-laws and keep animals under appropriate control. We encourage anyone encountering problems to promptly report them to the RDC Inspector, Ph 3484199.

Horses, especially in the vicinity of Okere, Taheke, Mourea and Hamurana, have also been the cause of concern from time to time. There have been several occasions where horses have broken from paddocks and strayed onto the State Highway presenting a very real danger to traffic. This has usually occurred because of inadequate fencing or lack of security, often through the inadvertent actions of child riders. We implore owners to ensure that their animals are well secured and help prevent the possibility of a tragic accident.

With the advent of summer, it is again timely to remind lake users of their responsibilities regarding water safety and speed limits when out boating. The ever increasing demand on our lakes, from owners of various water craft makes the need for common sense and vigilance all the more imperative. Please ensure that boats and occupants are adequately equipped and **KNOW THE LAKE BY-LAWS** before venturing out.

A Fishermans Lament: Oh give me the luck to catch a fish. So big that even I, When talking of it afterwards. May have not need to lie.

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STREET LIGHTING

Earlier in the year, committee members initiated an extensive survey of street lighting around the District with the result that we were able to identify and document major concerns and deficiencies which were then reported to Rotorua District Council. We requested RDC provide details of current policy and incorporate our requirements within the existing priority programme. We are advised that present funding constraints and the need to complete a long term maintenance programme will preclude any action in the immediate future. However, we will seek further progress in due course. In the meantime, we welcome input from residents who have particular concern in this area.

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION

You will recall that RDC devised the Rural Address Property Identification System a couple of years back to enable visitors and, more importantly, emergency services to be clearly directed to our properties. Due to limited resources, the programme has fallen behind schedule.

We recently expressed concern over the delays and were assured that personnel had been engaged to commence the Rotoiti project early in the New Year.

If anyone has the time and interest to become a Marine Radio Operator please get in touch with Lindsay Brighthouse (Phone 073624876). Our Rotorua Lakes Marine radio service is a vital organisation and badly needs a further 2 operators to work on roster. This is a voluntary service which maintains regular broadcasts and a listening watch on all boating and search and rescue operations on our lakes. Full training will be given and this interesting involvement would ideally suit a person who is perhaps confined to home or has time to spare.

Have you noticed the absence of frogs around the lakes, and the trout flies not as prevalent as in previous years? DOC seems to think it could be to do with the Pinotoba eruption and the strange El Nino weather patterns.

LINDSAY WRIGHT ELECTRICIAN

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West Rotoiti lake people will be closely watching the lake levels this mid-summer. The control gates at Okere are handled by BOP Regional Council in Whakatane, so they dictate the level of our lake from day to day. Earlier last year during the dry patch from January to April, the council was severely criticised for leaving the gates open for extended periods, thus draining the lake to extremely low levels. This, in turn, accelerated weed growth, exposed shallow navigational hazards, water quality suffered and many long term residents say it badly affected wildlife and the Delta fishing.

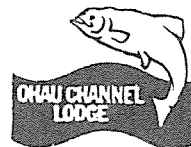
The big question is - were the gates left open to satisfy commercial interests. In other words to assist the rafting operators, who need water over the Okere Falls, to keep their businesses operating full time.

The lakeweed in several locations around Rotoiti, particularly the Okere Arm, Okawa Bay and the worst-affected areas of Gisborne Point were sprayed in mid November 1994. Although windy conditions prevailed for much of the month, DOC managed to take advantage of a lull and, from observations, achieved a satisfactory coverage. Two of our members, Ernie Cordwell and Dan Arrowmith, had previously navigated most of the lake surveying and chartering significant growth areas. This information was relayed to DOC to assist them in utilising the available resources to best effect. We are also hopeful that proposals to carry out harvesting trials in selected areas of Rotoiti later in the season will go ahead as planned.

We've mentioned before about the increasing number of launches on Lake Rotoiti, but one big disadvantage is that the lake does not have a commercial slipway for the annual or bi-annual bottom clean or routine maintenance. Seems a good opening for someone. There was a suggestion last year of a boatyard and slipway being built at Otaramarae but nothing has happened as yet.

Tourism is good for land prices and taxfree gain, Especially when others pay for the service costs. Growth in 'the economy' is good for those who run the economy!

OHAU CHANNEL LODGE



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MOUREA WATER SUPPLY

Following our submission to the Annual Plan, Rotorua District Council advised that preliminary design work was currently being undertaken with the intention of presenting it to the community in September 1994. A letter was sent out on 11 July 1994 to all property owners within the West Rotoiti District, i.e. Mourea, Okere, Otaramarae, Te Ngae Junction and Parkcliff. The letter provided background and information considered necessary to enable evaluation of the cost benefits of a public water supply to these areas and requested a registration of interest. The canvassing of all areas within West Rotoiti did not preclude individual communities being serviced separately.

The response indicated no strong support for a water supply scheme in any area. The results of the survey are reproduced below:-

	No reply %	Total Response %	% of those Polled		
			Supported	Unsupported	Undecided
Okere	41	59	27	25	7
Mourea/Okawa Bay	44	56	24	20	12
Otaramarae	46	54	15	23	16
Parkcliff	26	74	8	58	8
Te Ngae Junction	49	51	23	20	8

It should be pointed out that the Committee's efforts to establish a water supply have this far been confined to Mourea. A survey by the Association in 1990 attracted significant support from this area so it was particularly disappointing that the results did not reflect the time and energy expended in pursuing the matter. A number of people have indicated that they did not wish to respond until they had had the opportunity to clarify certain aspects at a public meeting. However, it is emphasised that this initial survey was merely to establish the level of interest in support of such a scheme.

Council have now put the proposal back into the hands of the ratepayers. We have requested that an RDC representative attend our upcoming Annual General Meeting to answer any concerns that you may have. IT IS NOW UP TO YOU. The Association is unable to re-open negotiations with Council until such time as it can be demonstrated that significant support still exists, whether in Mourea or any of the other areas.

It is of interest to note that, along with Tarawera, West Rotoiti is the only other major rural area within the Rotorua District yet to be provided with a community water supply. Whilst we are aware that many residents enjoy satisfactory supplies from private bores and springs, with some sophisticated systems in operation, it may never the less be pertinent to look ahead to the longer term and ask whether it may not be more desirable from an overall cost and security viewpoint to consider the advantages of an integral supply maintained through local authority sources.

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