

Lake Rotoiti Ratepayers & Residents Association

NEWSLETTER MAY 1996

Kia Ora

Greetings from the Lake

The publication of this Newsletter is part of our desire to keep everyone up to date with events that affect our community.

Our mailing list covers all of those properties bordering Lake Rotoiti where addresses are known. Copies are also available from stores around the Lake.

We receive a number of letters from members expressing appreciation of the committee's efforts. We are certainly grateful for this type of feedback.

Whilst we earnestly do our best to protect the environment and the community from proposals and decisions which are likely to adversely affect us, we seek and welcome input and support from all residents and ratepayers to try and ensure that we do, in fact, represent a majority viewpoint.

Remember, we act in a purely voluntary capacity. However, we do incur substantial costs in producing Submissions and Newsletters etc. To do this we need your **Subscription** which remains at a very reasonable \$10 per family. For those who haven't paid and wish to do so, remittance forms are enclosed.

We have delayed this Newsletter pending the probability of a by-election to select a North Ward District Councillor to replace Charles Sturt who resigned in January just 3 months into the new Council term. The Council had three options, a) not to seek replacement (deemed unacceptable by North Ward Ratepayers Groups), b) hold a by-election at an estimated cost of \$20,000 or c) appoint the next highest polling unsuccessful candidate from the October election. Our Association along with the other North Ward groups recommended the latter course of action taking into account the proximity to the previous election, the cost of a by-election, and our belief that Mrs Steve Chadwick, the first contender, would be a very able representative. Council took our cue and resolved to fill the vacancy accordingly.

However, in his usual blaze of publicity, former West Ward Councillor, Cliff Lee, who had lost his seat after several terms in office, berated Council for settling upon this course of action. Despite clear options being publicised in local media and the fact that we had made a recommendation only, he accused Ratepayer Associations of being unrepresentative of voters within the Ward whilst at the same time criticising the level of competence of some current Councillors and openly questioning the integrity of Steve Chadwick's likely contribution towards the overall good of the District. He signalled his intention to actively campaign for a by-election (in which he would stand) through the circulation of a petition amongst Ward residents. In accordance with legislation, a by-election must be held if 5% of eligible voters (in this case 522) make such request in writing within a prescribed period. That anyone determined enough to achieve such a small target would succeed was almost a foregone conclusion, especially as the majority of voters resided in urban areas such as Koutu, Ngongotaha and Lynmore/Owhata.

And so a by-election has become a reality. We are confident that our recommendation received the support of most Lake Rotoiti residents. It is now up to **EVERYONE** who is eligible to **CAST THEIR VOTE** on 8 June (postal voting applies) to ensure that the candidate of their choice has the greatest chance of selection. A short profile of candidates is included in this Newsletter.

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SECRETARY	=	Mary Stanton	Mourea	Ph	3624690
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	=	Theo de Lange	Otaramarae	Ph	3624342
	=	Michael Gill	Okawa Bay	Ph	3624589
	=	Bill Kingi	Parcliffe	Ph	3457186
	=	Tai Eru Morehu	Maniatutu Road	Ph	3624392
	=	Joan Piesse	Gisborne Point	Ph	3627755
	=	Theo Tait	Hinehopu	Ph	3627641
	=	Fred Whata	Okere Falls	Ph	3624842

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SIGNIFICANT ISSUES ADDRESSED OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS

ROTORUA DISTRICT COUNCIL - Annual Plan
 ROTORUA DISTRICT COUNCIL - District Plan
 ENVIRONMENT BOP - Plant Pest Management Strategy
 ENVIRONMENT BOP - Animal Pest Management Strategy
 DOC - Lakeweed Spraying
 ENVIRONMENT BOP & RDC - Resource Consent Application for Geothermal
 Exploration at Taheke
 ROTORUA DISTRICT COUNCIL - Street Lighting requirements for Lake Rotoiti
 ROTORUA DISTRICT COUNCIL - Kaituna River Management and Commercial Rafting
 ENVIRONMENT BOP & RDC - Rotorua Lakes Control and User Safety
 ROTORUA DISTRICT COUNCIL - Playgrounds at Gisborne Point and Hinehopu
 ROTORUA DISTRICT COUNCIL - SH33 upgrade for stormwater, kerbing
 & TRANSIT NZ channelling and footpathing
 ENVIRONMENT BOP - Lake Levels Management
 TRUSTPOWER - Management of Rotorua District
 ROTORUA DISTRICT COUNCIL - West Rotoiti Water Supply Proposals
 ROTORUA DISTRICT COUNCIL - Tourism Marketing, Ratepayer Funding
 ROTORUA DISTRICT COUNCIL - Road Safety issues
 TV3 - Translator for Lake Rotoiti
 ROTORUA DISTRICT COUNCIL - Rural Refuse facilities

WHAT WAS ACHIEVED?

Perhaps not as much as we would have liked. However, financial resources are generally constrained and subject to many competing interests. The SH33 upgrade at Mourea has been completed along with the playgrounds at Gisborne Point and Hinehopu. Major funding is in the pipeline for safety works from Whangamarino School to Taheke turn-off. Our input has helped to secure better monitoring rules for aquatic weeds and stringent conditions for geothermal exploration. More resources have now been put into the hitherto underfunded area of lake user safety control. Significant progress has been made in the important areas of lake and river management issues and we are confident that management of lake levels will be enhanced in the near future. Many issues remain ongoing as we continue to strive for results which will we believe will benefit our local and wider community.

TRUSTPOWER - YET TO BE TRUSTED

Since the takeover of Rotorua Electricity by Tauranga-based Trustpower, the Combined Lakes Ratepayers Association has been involved in "earnest" discussions with company executives over their lack of performance and service to the Rotorua District. On behalf of all lakes power consumers, the CLRA (along with Federated Farmers) has been up front in expressing concern with regard to excessively long fault repair delays and poor communication.

Trustpower has admitted that their service to lakes power users, so far, has been well below national standards - a belated crash programme is now underway to clear trees, upgrade lines and improve communication systems. Unfortunately, they are endeavouring to make the former Rotorua Electricity into a scapegoat for current shortcomings. They say that the old network had been allowed to run down leaving them with a large and expensive job to get it up to scratch. Do we see here a "softening up" exercise for hefty price increases soon??

CLRA say that Trustpower's problems are nearly all of their own making. They concede they knew little about Rotorua Electricity when they took it over which is an amazing admission from such a large professional organisation. One would have expected line surveys, etc to have been carried out well before takeover date. Instead, they virtually dismantled Rotorua Electricity immediately, shed most of the experienced staff with local knowledge, and discontinued the maintenance and upgrading programmes that the old company had underway. Consequently, this lack of maintenance and failure to familiarise with the district (they should have started from day one) has resulted in fault repair times which have, on occasions, been twice as long as before and exacerbated by abysmal communication.

The whole saga of Trustpower's takeover has been most unsatisfactory. It has been said that Rotorua electricity consumers have suffered from the "classic arrogance of big business" where the takeover was all important. Never mind the ramifications to the consumers - if they squeal loud enough worry about it then! Lakes consumers **have** "squealed" and will continue to do so until we have a power system which is up to the expected standard.

Harcourts

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - JANUARY 1996

1995 proved to be another busy year for the Association. Continuing recognition by the various Statutory Bodies of the entitlement of Ratepayer Groups to be consulted on a wide front has led to considerable gains in progressing issues of mutual interest as well as fostering increasing goodwill along the way. Although some matters remain unresolved, the willingness of most Councillors and Council staff to actively seek a consensus on proposals which affect individual communities is most welcome.

The rapid advancement of tourism in recent times has inevitably produced conflicts of interest between long standing residents who wish to preserve the environment and quality of life to which they owe allegiance, and commercial operations that seek access to indulge in new and expanding business ventures, especially in the rural and lakeside areas. Whilst most would welcome the economic upswing brought about by these activities, such development needs to be rationalised to ensure that ecological ideals are not unduly compromised and the rights and expectations of affected communities given due consideration. This Association along with other interest groups will continue to make every effort to promote and support legislation which provides a level of protection against proposals which are seen to be of detrimental value only. Current matters of concern which continue to be pursued include the control of commercial activities on and around the Kaituna River and the navigation of the Ohau Channel by unsuited craft such as the catamaran Scat Cat.

Also of concern is the ever increasing pressure exerted by recreational users of Lake Rotoiti who steadily multiply year by year. Management of the Rotorua Lakes, and lake user safety, have been spotlighted this year and we are pleased to report that District Council has acknowledged the combined representations of Lakes Ratepayer Groups by allocating additional resources to this area.

Many will be aware of moves by Trust Power and other supply companies to exploit local geothermal resources for power generation. Already, conditional consent has been granted to test drill part of the Taheke field. Our objections, along with others, were insufficient to prevent the approval. Further initiatives including the larger Tikitere field are presently being negotiated. All residents should hold some fears about the potential consequences of such development. Recent information suggests a growing belief amongst the geological fraternity that the Taheke and Tikitere fields are inter-connected and that lake levels will be adversely affected. Certainly there will be significant changes to the environment if full scale power generation is allowed to proceed. Apart from any other considerations, it would seem expedient for the relevant Statutory Authorities to commission monitoring of the Tikitere field in the immediate future to determine factors which will likely affect the sustainability of geothermal power production and present surface activity in the Rotoiti area.

Lake water quality is always topical amongst local residents. This year has seen a welcome absence of water-net which suggests that the spraying programmes to reduce the host oxygen weed are bearing results. However, there have been above average lake levels throughout much of the year caused

by excessive rainfall and this will have assisted in suppressing weed beds. There have been reports of blue-green algae appearing in areas of restricted circulation e.g. Okawa Bay and this has the ability to detract greatly from other improvements.

Applications by Environment BOP for Resource Consent to control the levels of Lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti have been promulgated and submissions called for. There has been dissatisfaction by residents over some aspects of lake level management in recent years. The opportunity exists to address problem areas although it should be acknowledged that compromises will be needed due to fluctuations of nature in different sectors of the lake. A greater understanding of the wider implications should enable acceptable parameters to be set.

A further survey of residents in West Rotoiti is being carried out by the Association in response to numerous requests to pursue the implementation of a central water supply. It is to be hoped that on this occasion, all property owners respond to determine the true level of support for such a scheme. Several volunteers have been canvassing local areas to facilitate this aim. A report commissioned by District Council on options for sewerage rural and lakeside settlements is due to be completed by July this year. This should provide the necessary information to proceed with the upgrade of facilities in areas such as Mourea, Okawa Bay and Hinehopu.

The construction of kerbing, channelling and footpaths along SH33 at Mourea during this past year will greatly assist in controlling stormwater run-off as well as providing safer walkways and aesthetic improvements to the area. Re-sealing of the highway and Ngareta Street is scheduled for this summer. Some problems in Ngareta Street still exist and will be taken up with the local authority. Public amenities, road safety, street lighting, footpaths, mowing, refuse facilities, animal control and crime prevention have been addressed over the past term. Whilst the usual funding constraints restrict progress in these areas, we will continue to promote urgent needs and seek further improvements where required.

Local body elections this year provided some new faces at the Council table. We congratulate Mita Mohi in gaining a North Ward seat. Mita is well known throughout the District and we look forward to working with him over the next three years. Likewise, Rosemary Michie has regained a seat on Environment BOP's Council and will bring local representation closer to home. On behalf of the Association, I would like to thank all local body members and staff who have continued to support and assist us over the past year.

The increasing pressures on our environment demand extra vigilance to ensure that decision makers are made fully aware of the concerns and expectations of our communities. The Association continues to be served by a resourceful and pro-active committee whose combined voluntary efforts have enhanced our reputation in protecting the interests of Rotoiti residents. As one of five Districts incorporated to the Combined Lakes Ratepayers Association, we are able to summon additional strength in furthering our cause. Finally, I again extend my gratitude to those who have supported and encouraged us throughout the year. Only with the backing of its membership will the Association be able to function and operate successfully. Best wishes to you all for 1996.

Jim Stanton
Chairman

LAKE MAINTENANCE

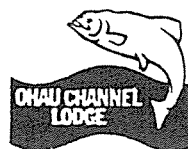
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LAKE LEVELS MANAGEMENT

Environment BOP is currently assessing submissions relating to their Resource Consent Applications to control the levels of various lakes including Rotorua and Rotoiti. A pre-hearing will be convened in Rotorua on 17 May which we will be attending. Our submission addresses all aspects relating to the control of both lakes. Establishing an acceptable level for Rotoiti is no doubt the most difficult task. It is clear that there are two schools of thought, those that would have it significantly lower than it has been to alleviate problems with sewerage systems and flooding of property, and those who require a higher level to facilitate boat mooring and recreational use. Considerable support exists in both camps. However, there is general agreement that the level of Rotoiti has been invariably too high during normal weather patterns over the past few years. We believe also that the present range is far too wide which merely allows the controlling authority more latitude. We have recommended that the level be set as a specific target giving due regard to (differing aspects as outlined in our submission) and recognising that in times of severe weather fluctuation this level may necessarily be compromised but that at all times any variance should be reverted to normal without delay. This would mean that Environment BOP would be obliged to keep much tighter control over the level than has been the case in the past which in turn should cause less dissatisfaction due to wider fluctuations and slow response to changing conditions. We are aware that a number of other submitters have made similar recommendations. Other matters that we have commented on relate to methods of monitoring, location of marker gauges and discrepancies between gauge levels, Okere Control Gates operation, effects on water table and septic tanks, erosion of lake margins, effects of geothermal exploration, boat and fish passage through the Ohau Channel Control Structure and commercial activities on the Kaituna River.

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ROTORUA DISTRICT COUNCIL - DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 1996/97

This years Draft Plan has now been promulgated and is open to submission from residents and ratepayers regarding proposed expenditure and activities. Submissions close at 4.00pm on Tuesday 4 June 1996. Council sees this as a year of "consolidation" until debt incurred through the fast-tracking of the City Redevelopment is reduced. This will continue for the next two years at least. However, according to Council, accumulated rate increases over the past five years have been about 5% below inflation. To allow for even minimal progress, it is therefore not possible to keep rates for this year at or below inflation (currently around 2.8%). RDC propose an increase in total rates revenue of 4.7%. This translates into average increases of 5.5% for Farming properties, 4.5% for rural residential and 4.25% for urban lots. The Uniform Annual Charge, set to collect a base minimum contribution from each separately rateable property before applying the general rate is to increase from \$310 last year to \$325 this time around. Water availability charges for Rotoiti increase from \$33 to \$40. Refuse collection charges remain the same at \$45.

To constrain expenditure, Council has proposed to reduce or delete budgets for a number of established and additional discretionary items which are detailed in the Plan. Nonetheless, an estimated \$8.9 million of capital works is programmed for the next 12 months. Most of this may seem acceptable on the surface but from the rural ratepayers perspective all is not so well. The upgrading of the Central Business District has certainly provided a long overdue facelift. However, the extra expenditure required to expedite completion has lifted the city debt to over \$40 million, the servicing of which this year will require 20% of the rates take. The District Manager recently revealed that there is a \$15 million backlog of work to be done on the city stormwater system to prevent recurring flooding problems and the new infrastructure would require increased maintenance funding. Whilst most of us can accept the enhancements and needs within the urban area, the struggle to attract funding for basic rural services becomes harder. Roading improvements, street lighting, footpaths and the like continue to be pushed further down the list. Part of our thrust this year will be to emphasise previous requests for a more balanced funding distribution so that such projects can be better prioritised in relation to the overall requirements of the District. We will therefore be questioning the importance of a number of proposed expenditure items. There is a definite perception that, in relative terms, Council lacks sufficient regard for rural and lakeside communities which perhaps demonstrates the need for the existence of pro-active groups such as our own to represent these views.

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A Local Government Reform Bill currently before Parliament has huge implications for the way in which Local Bodies fund expenditure items if passed in its present form. Emphasis is on user pays with those who can be identified as deriving the benefit from particular services being directly targeted for costs. It has come about due to recent successful challenges made by some large companies over Council rating policies. Interpretation is presently unclear. However Rotorua rural ratepayers would have to be alarmed over the ramifications of such legislation, especially when it comes to major items such as sewerage and water. Any attempt to change the rules now after others have benefitted greatly from cross subsidisation would be keenly contested.

WEST ROTOITI WATER SUPPLY UPDATE

Our undertaking to co-ordinate a further survey of residents within the West Rotoiti area has been progressing rather slowly due to the difficulty in identifying and contacting the many absentee owners. Support for further investigation in Central Mourea (excluding Okawa Bay and Hamurana Road) is presently 77 for, 8 against and 59 still to be contacted. This represents 53.4% support with at least 60% required for Council to proceed. In Okere the figures are 56 for, 22 against and 206 yet to respond. Lack of volunteers has hindered any progress in Otaramarae or Te Ngae Junction. A form enclosed with this Newsletter is a further opportunity to make your view known. If you have not already responded this year, we would appreciate your reply.

Remember, expressions of support at this stage are purely an indicator for Council to further investigate the proposal. Any binding commitment would be sought further down the track. Once again, it is in your hands!

Interesting to see a significant trend back to slow (around 8 to 10 knots) displacement launches on Rotoiti. At least six have been launched this summer by folk who prefer the comfort, stability and cheaper running costs of the older style boats.

It seems that Environment BOP are keen to press ahead with completely fencing the perimeter of Lake Rotoiti as well as other lakes. The intention of this enormous job is to prevent cattle, in particular, and other livestock from fouling the lake. As can be appreciated, this will require a great amount of co-operation from lakeside farmers. If acceptable agreements can be worked out, the reward should be better lake water quality all round.

The swan population on the Rotorua lakes is always a talking point. The latest opinion from Eastern Region Fish and Game is that numbers have dwindled from 3300 in 1991 to 1300 in 1996. Many lakeside residents find this hard to believe. The black swan is a game bird and can be hunted during the duck shooting season. Stories go that in earlier days it formed part of the staple diet. A "highly experienced" local chef says that the best way to cook a swan is to place it in a large pot with a big stone, boil it for 12 hours, and then eat the stone!! It's not all bad though. Theo de lange, one of our highly valued committee members, maintains that one swan egg is the equal of five ordinary eggs and makes a magnificent omelette as well as being used in days past as a major ingredient in cake mixtures and baking recipes. Theo, who by the way is doing a splendid job as a Rotorua Marine Radio Operator, also reveals that our swans occasionally migrate all the way down to Lake Ellesmere in inland Canterbury and back.

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TOURISM MARKETING REVIEW

During last years Annual Plan submissions, many groups like our own expressed concerns over the amount of rates revenue being expended by Rotorua District Council to support the marketing of the tourism industry. The net cost of tourism marketing and development is now running at around \$2 million annually. Council responded by undertaking to review their input and produced a document 'Tourism Marketing Review'. Providing background detail and justification for its involvement, Council concludes with the recommendation that it maintain an active presence in tourism marketing and promotion as a key employment development strategy for the District.

Explaining their stance at a recent committee meeting, District Manager Ted Hansen reiterated some of the main points made in the review in which the overriding factor remains to help redress the problem of unemployment where any improvement would enhance our economic base as well as reducing attendant social ills, especially now that Government assistance had virtually dried up and it was left largely to local communities to provide initiatives in this area. In respect of the tourism industry, Council believed itself to be the most impartial facilitator in proposed ventures. Current legislation disallowed any form of visitor tax being imposed at regional level and it was unlikely that calls for a portion of the GST take to be redistributed for this purpose would be entertained. The only other recourse was to amend the rating differentials to target commercial activities which derived the most benefit from increased visitor numbers. However this required critical analysis to ensure that the rates set were not legally challengeable. There is recognition of the limit to the amount of ratepayers monies which should be used for this purpose and Council has proposed to establish an industry working group to explore supplementary sources of funding.

Whilst we can accept the rationale behind all of this, there remains a big question mark over whether the average ratepayer is getting a fair return for the amount of money he or she contributes to this cause and whether it should now be handed over to private enterprise to pursue. We believe that it is time for ratepayer funding to be scaled down with the aim of gradually transferring the role to the private sector. We shall be recommending this course of action through further submissions.

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FISHING REPORT

The 1995/96 season for trolling and harling started quite well in October with anglers achieving good results but fish often being small and in poor condition. I actually caught five undersize fish in one day. December lived up to its usual reputation with good quality trout being taken, especially harling early in the morning. Although January and February were slow, the persistent angler was rewarded with some fine catches. Rapid improvement has been experienced since March with the writer regularly catching five good quality fish in a day including a recent limit bag of eight, all in the 1.5 to 3.5kg range. Recommended fishing areas are shallow trolling and harling at the Delta and between The Pylons and Sulphur Bay, harling and trolling from the Hot Pools to Pateko Island and between Moose Lodge and Hauparu Bay, trolling from Ruato to Gisborne Point, harling, trolling and ledging from Otaramarae to Ngapuka Bay and deep trolling and ledging between Honeymoon Bay and Te Papatu Point. Favoured lures have been black or green Stinger, black or blue Toby, Kiwi Lure and Tasmanian Devil (purple, pink, green/yellow, rastafarian, yellow/white). Best flies have been Parsons Glory, Ginger Mick, Mrs Simpson, Rabbit and Hairy Dog. Tight Lines and Good Fishing.

Richard Wilson

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TELECOM MOBILE FACILITY

Telecom have recently commissioned a new cellphone transceiver on a site adjacent to Whangamoia Drive south of Otaramarae following the granting of a resource consent late last year. Land for the project was leased from the Rotoiti 1B Trust and is sited in the vicinity of the Pakaruamaro Trig. The facility consists of a free standing mast, equipment container and landline connection to existing communications. The mast is 18 metres in height and is secured within a 4.5 metre square base which took 8 truckloads of concrete and steel and weighs 92 tonnes. 1.2km of underground cabling and a similar length access road completes the construction. Total cost was in the region of \$800,000. A further mast between here and Te Puke is planned to complete District coverage. The aim of the latest cellular link is to provide coverage to Lake Rotoiti and SH33 north of Mourea which up to now has been poor. The result will be a much improved service for business, safety and personal users.

The much improved situation of markers and buoys on Lake Rotoiti is the result of an Annual Plan submission by your Ratepayers Association last year which highlighted the disastrous situation during 1994 when less than half were actually in place. New Lakes Inspector, Dave Pilkington has done an excellent job in only six months fixing things up. Dave is now assisted by four part time paid inspectors, one each on Lakes Rotoiti, Rotoma/Rotoehu, Tarawera and Okareka. Darryl Ross of Okawa Bay is our local appointee. This also came about through our submission. The brief for these positions is not yet clear, but they are expected to take a load off the fulltime staff inspector. RDC is slowly recognising that one lakes inspector for all Rotorua lakes is simply not enough.

After years of little activity and procrastination, our two principle local bodies, (Rotorua District Council and Environment BOP) are finally putting together a complete stand alone chapter for lakes management as part of the District Plan. This was actually promised in draft form by the end of last year but has proved to be a much bigger job than expected. It could now be another two years to completion date. Meanwhile, a local environmental group, Kaitiaki Tarawera, is reported to be seeking Planning Tribunal intervention to force RDC to get some rules in place sooner rather than later.

An opinion emerging from Lake Ratepayers Associations is that RDC should stop trying to tiptoe amongst the thirteen different agencies presently involved in some part of lakes control, and push for an "all encompassing" Rotorua Lakes Authority based in Rotorua.

LINDSAY WRIGHT
ELECTRICIAN

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BLUEPRINT

Over the Xmas break we gave special attention to the many tourist car parks in your areas following several thefts of property from your cars. Some of the property was dumped as the offenders drove away from the scene and after checking and removing valuable items. A fairly large haul of property was recovered following a tip-off and many owners have been re-united with their belongings.

Thieves seem to be paying more attention to bank cards and on occasions have found relevant PIN numbers recorded on a piece of paper. If you are one who wants to share your PIN number (and your money) with other people you had better think again. Our Fraud Squad are becoming sick and tired of the amount of extra work it generates and are considering making the victims pay more for their mistakes.

Summer wouldn't be summer if we didn't have a boat go missing or property stolen from a boat. So lots of people during the summer became victims of such incidents. Some of the property might eventually turn up whilst some may not. I think the saddest part of all this is (and I have said it before and will say it again) that it's time saving, money saving and energy saving to take security precautions than to have property stolen. Let's face it, some of the property is being stolen from insecure crafts and sheds. Those of you who have sheds broken into will need to review your security measures.

As the cooler months approach, the cannabis plants which have been harvested, dried and weighed will start appearing in the hands of drug dealers. These people sometimes prey on young unsuspecting clients. Many kids take the cannabis to school, get caught, and before they know it, it's all over and to pick up from where they left off is very difficult.

Finally, congratulations to Judy REWI for reactivating part of the Mourea neighbourhood support group. As a co-ordinator you will find your small role an easy one. Okawa Bay you're next. I hope others will follow.

George ANARU
Community Constable
TE NGAE CPC

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KAITUNA RIVER MANAGEMENT

This issue blew up into a major public debate in February when it was revealed that the Rotoiti Scenic Reserves Board through DOC had presented a Management Plan for their control of the Okere Falls Scenic Reserve and adjacent portion of the river which included terms of contract to licence commercial rafting companies. The prime covenants contained within the proposed contract would see defined periods of operation including cessation during the month of June (to eliminate disturbance at the height of the trout spawning season) and observation of rahui (closure of the river for spiritual reasons such as drowning), establishment of boundaries, imposition of licence fees, and provision of trained guides. As was to be expected, there were several outcries from various quarters which pre-empted the involvement of the Minister of Conservation and local MPs as well as Rotorua District Council and Environment BOP.

Regretfully, much of the exposure through local media was borne of misinformation and lack of understanding. However, once the dust settled, progress was able to resume. The intervention of the Board came after several years of totally unacceptable control or lack of it in respect of white water rafting interests and their use of the Kaituna and surrounding Reserve areas. The main problem has been conflicting legislation which confuses the issue of jurisdiction over the river. The Rotoiti Scenic Reserves Board was established by Crown appointment 75 years ago to control and manage Reserves around Lake Rotoiti including the Okere Falls Scenic Reserve. Under their mandate, the Board is required to protect the Reserves against adverse impacts, facilitate public use and enjoyment, and licence commercial enterprises. The Board is funded through DOC and comprises members of the Ngati Pikiao iwi in recognition of their tangata whenua status and gift of most of the land given over to Reserve. The current Chairman is well known administrator Arapeta Tahana and the Regional Conservator acts as an ex-officio member. Recent events have seen some acknowledgement of the various roles of the statutory organisations and a more co-operative stance in finalising an appropriate management structure for the Kaituna River including controls over commercial activities. This will be done conjointly and, once agreed to, should see the withdrawal of RDC's Heritage Protection Order over the river, a matter which is likely to be enforced in any event by amendments to the Resource Management Act.

For our own part, we entered the debate reiterating concerns which had begun over four years ago and which had proved to be well founded with, at one time, over nine rafting companies vying for position and dominating the largely unspoilt Okere Reserve which had been enjoyed as a scenic attraction by passive recreationalists and visitors for many years. The effect of their operations, especially the virtual takeover of public amenities for assembly, changing, ablutions and on-site advertising has been seen to be detrimental in many aspects to the local environment. That they have been allowed to proceed largely unchecked is due primarily to the failure of RDC, who proclaimed control over surface water activity on the Kaituna, to pursue and implement adequate control measures with sufficient urgency. We believe that the recent initiatives by the Reserves Board are the most positive move yet to redress the ecological degradation and user imbalance within this Reserve area. Any plan that satisfactorily accomodates both environmental concerns and commercial interests would surely be welcomed by the public majority. It is to be hoped that a final solution is close to hand.

We have recently accepted an invitation to attend RDC's Transport Safety Committee meetings following a request from the CLRA. We took the opportunity to express concerns over the large trucking rigs using Hamurana Road and the speed of similar vehicles on SH30 through Rotoiti. With regard to the latter, members of the Road Transport Association, i.e. Trucking companies, welcome any information from the public which identifies vehicles breaking the law or driving in a dangerous manner. Whilst not everyone is comfortable with this suggestion, police and other resources are not always readily available. Hamurana Road will be the subject of a road user study in the near future. Speed limits from Gisborne Point through to Rotoma were also discussed with a focus on reviewing current inconsistencies. We learnt that Transit NZ have allocated \$300,000 to Upgrade SH33 from Whangamarino School to the Kaituna River bridge. Work is expected to commence during this financial year.

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We are now on the file of the Community Contacts Database being developed by Rotorua Public Library aimed at improving public access to current information on community organisations and services within the district.

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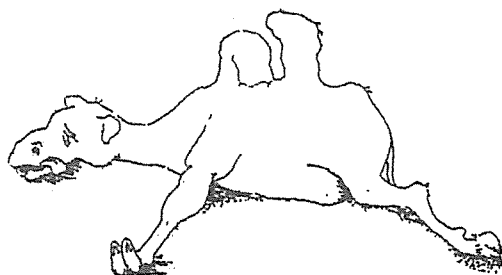
The open drain bordering the Pikiaro Rugby League Club and properties in Waana Street has been a perennial problem for some years. Higher lake levels and apparent design faults have caused water to periodically back up and lie stagnant presenting a potential health hazard as well as danger to young children who use the league ground for recreation. It would seem that the answer may lie in re-routing the drain to the south of the league club into Lake Rotorua and filling the present drain in. Council undertook to look at the problem at our AGM in January and we have since reminded them that we still await a response.

#####

In last years Annual Plan, RDC budgeted to construct a boat ramp and jetty on Lake Rotorua at Mourea. It seems that they had ideas of locating the structure adjacent to the Waana St Reserve. They have recently broached the subject and we responded that from our inquiries, there appeared to be little support for it, especially at Waana St where it was likely to have a significant impact on local residents. It was suggested that the proposal may have originated from one of the local fishing clubs but we have been unable to find any such source. Our advice is that the funding would be better spent elsewhere until the need can be established and appropriate site investigations undertaken.

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North Ward by-election — who's standing

Candidate statements for the North Ward by-election appear on this page.

Election day is June 8 and the election will be conducted by postal vote.

Voting papers will be sent out to registered electors two weeks prior to election day so you can expect to receive your papers after May 25.

Voting papers must be returned to be in the hands of

the Returning Officer by 12 noon on election day for counting.

If you return your papers by mail, make sure you have posted them before Thursday, June 6. It is up to you to ensure the

papers are either delivered or posted to reach the Returning Officer by closing time on June 8 otherwise your vote will become invalid.

The Council Administration building will be open between

9am and 12 noon on election day to receive completed papers and for special votes.

Results of the by-election will be available after 7pm on election day.

Steve Chadwick

Steve Chadwick is Manager of Women, Child and Family Services at Lakeland Health. Stood in last Local Body election missing a seat by 27 votes. Says she will bring a women's perspective to the Council focused on community issues and be part of a team for the well-being of Rotorua. The key to this was balanced planning. Would not become obsessional about issues but would look at the facts behind each case and seek relevant opinion where necessary. Would stand up for anything that promotes Rotorua as a tourist city but protects the interests of the community. Believes money should be spent on the rural community as well as in the city for things such as street lighting and sewerage where benefits are obvious. She offers voters her business skills, people interest and love of Rotorua.



Steve Chadwick

Cliff Lee



Cliff Lee

Cliff Lee is a resident of Mameku. States interests as social sciences, politics, history, science and technology. 12 years as District Councillor before losing seat at last election. Also served as Regional and Polytech Councillor. Believes half the present Council do not have the 'historical perspective' to deal with problems relating to Maori Land claims or the Planning Tribunal whereas he has the ability to obtain the facts and grasp the real issues. Complained publicly of 'self centred lakeside dwellers who had the funds to pay lawyers but not rates and who put a spanner in the works to defend an indefensible position of privilege' during the great rates fiasco of 1991. Current aim is to make Rotorua a less expensive place to live, more exciting and convenient.

NOTE that the following public meetings commencing at 7.00pm have been arranged to meet the candidates and will coincide with the sending out of the Postal Election Papers on 25 May:-

MONDAY	27 MAY	-	NGONGATAHA COMMUNITY HALL
TUESDAY	28 MAY	-	TE TAKINGA MARAE, MOUREA
WEDNESDAY	29 MAY	-	ROTOMA COMMUNITY HALL

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Rotorua Community Charity Trust

PO Box 4017
ROTORUA

Dear Rotoiti Ratepayers Association Members

Dust off your Tux and dancing shoes because we are doing it again but bigger, better and brighter !!

What	"Civic Ball"
When	Saturday 29th June 1996, 8pm
Where	Rotorua Convention Centre
Who for	Life Education Trust

Be greeted on arrival with a champagne cocktail and hors d'oeuvres, dance the night away until 1am with our big brass band and partake of a sumptuous continuous supper from 10.30pm.

Rotorua Life Education Trust will benefit from proceeds of ticket sales. Life Education Trust is taking positive action to prevent drug and alcohol abuse among our children before it starts. Their main aim is to help children make decisions based on knowledge rather than ignorance, peer pressure or copy cat behaviour. Its all about building healthy lives with exciting alternative options !!

With such a worthwhile cause benefiting from proceeds we know you will be happy to pledge your support and have some fun at the same time. Tables will seat 10 so why not make up a table with friends, business colleagues or clients and have a "Ball".

As an added incentive one lucky ticket holder will win an Ansett New Zealand mystery weekend for two. Other spot prizes be will presented throughout the evening.

This will be a wonderful evening and we urge you to mark the date in your diary now. Tickets will be available from Tourism Rotorua and Rotorua District Council reception at a cost of \$75.00 per single. Profit from the Ball will be donated to Life Education Trust and your receipt will reflect this.

We look forward to hosting you and your friends to this glittering event.

Mobile Library Calendar

Tuesday Route 1996

9.00 - 9.45am	Rotokawa School
10.15 - 10.35am	Rotoiti Store
10.40 - 11.00am	Te Kura o Rotoiti
11.15 - 11.35am	Rotoma School
11.40 - 12 noon	Merge Lodge, Rotoma
1.00 - 1.30pm	Okere Falls/School
1.45 - 2.30pm	Hamurana Store
3.00 - 3.20pm	Mamaku School
3.25 - 3.45pm	Mamaku Store

The Mobile Library carries a good selection of

- * Adult and Childrens
 - * Fiction
 - * Non-fiction
 - * Large print
 - * Magazines
 - * Talking books
 - * New Zealand Fiction & Non-fiction
 - * Music Cassettes and C.D.'s
 - * Videos
- Special requests can be made for specific items.

1996 Rotokawa Route

May 7th & 21st	June 4th & 18th	July 2nd & 16th	Aug 13 & 27th	Sept 10th & 24th
Oct 8th & 22nd	Nov 5th & 19th	Dec 3rd & 17th	1997 Jan 14th & 28th	