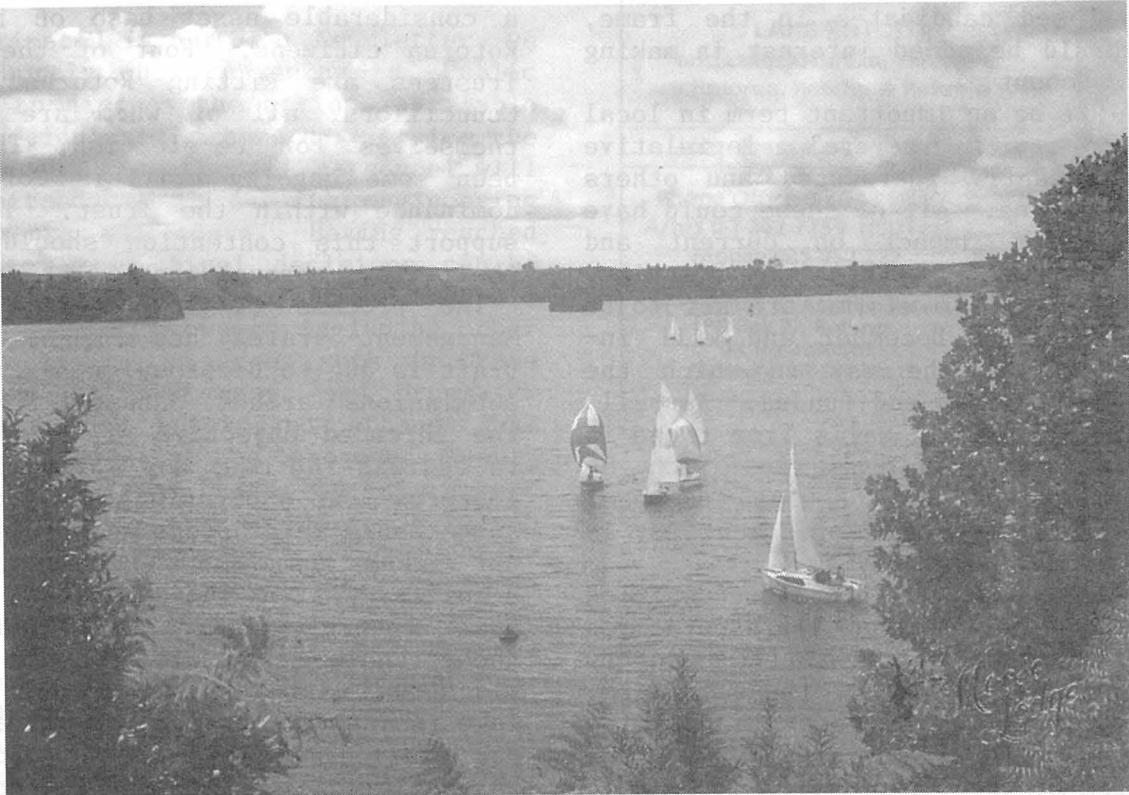




Lake Rotoiti Ratepayers & Residents Association

SEPTEMBER 1998



Kia Ora Greetings from the Lake

This issue primarily highlights the October Local Body elections and profiles the candidates standing for the Rotorua District Council's Mayoralty and North Ward as well as those aspiring to Regional Council (Environment BOP). It is hoped that Rotoiti ratepayers will find this useful in making their choices and may provide the only opportunity for absentee owners to assess all of the candidates.

Submissions to the working document 'Towards a Te Arawa Lakes Strategy' are being studied and any amendments considered appropriate will be incorporated into the Draft Strategy which is due to be publicly notified around January next year. Inside, we reproduce our submission to the Strategy working document. As always, feedback will be most welcome in the run-up to the Draft Strategy review.

With almost 400 financial members, we remain the largest ratepayer group in Rotorua. Thanks once again to our many advertisers and subscribers. Your support is of paramount importance. Our sincere best wishes to all those who have an interest in Lake Rotoiti affairs.

Chairman:
Jim Stanton
Tel: 362 4690

Secretary:
Mary Stanton
Tel: 362 4690

All Mail: PO Mourea
c/- Happy Angler Store
Rotorua

Fax: 362 4589

From the Chairman

Local Body elections are perhaps uppermost in our minds at present and now nominations are closed, we are in a position to analyse those standing and finalise our selections. With several Rotoiti based candidates in the frame, there should be added interest in making our votes count.

This will be an important term in local government with several legislative changes recently introduced and others in the pipeline. All of these could have a significant impact on current and future activities within the District. For example, road reforms are set to be implemented from December and will inevitably change the way in which the network is serviced and funded. As well, there are increasing calls from those in power to privatise utilities such as water supplies and sewage disposal schemes. The Resource Management Act is also presently under review.

We will be seeking appropriate decision making from our elected representatives in protecting the interests of residents and ratepayers in all of these matters. I urge every eligible voter to exercise their democratic right and support the candidates of their choice.

The election of six Trustees to the Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust also takes place towards the end of this year. The Trust was born out of the electricity reforms several years ago and controls a considerable asset base on behalf of Rotorua citizens. Four of the present Trustees are sitting Rotorua District Councillors, all of whom are offering themselves for re-election. There has been some ongoing criticism of Council dominance within the Trust. Those who support this contention should reflect their views through the ballot papers.

The process of formulating a Lakes Management Strategy has commenced and the Draft is due to be promulgated for public submissions around January next year. The intended objective of this document to address the many and varied community concerns and aspirations with regard to sustainable development and protection of our lakes and lake catchments, and to significantly influence future management controls over activities around these unique assets should arouse widespread interest, especially amongst lake residents. We recommend that everyone avail themselves of the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

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Mourea Water Supply

Our submission to this year's Annual Plan was successful in persuading Rotorua District Council to bring forward the implementation date for the Mourea Water Supply proposal to commence in the 1999 year.

As intimated in our last Newsletter, we will shortly be convening a Public Meeting to discuss the options available for a reticulated scheme to service the Mourea area. Key Council personnel will be in attendance to outline engineering requirements and costs. Having reached the stage where final decisions can be made, it is vitally important that all affected property owners including other potential extension areas such as Okawa Bay, Hamurana Road east, and Brunswick Park make the effort to attend this meeting (presently the proposed supply area runs from the Okawa Bay Lake Resort to Rotoiti Delta, excluding Hamurana Road). If you have any further queries before or after the meeting, please do not hesitate to contact either Adrian Vosloo at Rotorua District Council Engineering Office, Tel 3484199, or Association Chairman, Jim Stanton.

Following the meeting, Council will once again send out questionnaires to all property owners to confirm the support base for the proposed scheme. It is even more imperative that everyone takes the time to send in a reply, including those opposed to the scheme. We strongly urge you to make your considerations known. Only in this way will a true consensus be achieved.

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Proposed Mourea Water Supply

Notice of Public Meeting

to be held at

**Pikiao Rugby League Clubrooms
Takinga Street, Mourea
on Sunday, 8 November 1998 at 10.00am**

**ALL MOUREA, OKAWA BAY AND BRUNSWICK PARK PROPERTY OWNERS ARE
URGED TO ATTEND. ANY OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES WELCOME.**

COUNCIL ELECTIONS - 10 October 1998

On the following pages, we profile this year's candidates for Rotorua District Council's North Ward (which encompasses Rotoiti), the Rotorua Mayoralty, and the Rotorua Regional seats of Environment Bay of Plenty. With seven candidates including the three sitting members, the North Ward has the greatest competition for seats. There are six candidates for Mayor and seven for the Regional Council (three representatives required).

Of interest to Rotoiti voters is that from the ranks of the new contenders are two local residents. Both Fred Whata who is standing for the North Ward, and Tai Eru Morehu who is seeking a Regional seat are Rotoiti born and bred and have been long standing and valuable members of the Lake Rotoiti Ratepayers Committee. Their extensive history of serving the community in numerous capacities provides each with credentials which make them most worthy of consideration. Also seeking re-election to Regional Council is twenty-six year Mourea resident, Rosemary Michie who has served previously as a District Councillor. Rosemary has invariably turned out to local meetings and demonstrated a willingness to take up issues on behalf of our communities.

Returning to the North Ward, all three sitting members, Steve Chadwick, Mita Mohi and Knocker Dean (who also contests the Mayoralty) are seeking re-election. Steve, who won the by-election to replace Charles Sturt early into the last term, has been most visible by her presence and given us consistent support throughout. Knocker and Mita (another first term) have been less conspicuous this time around. Of the other new candidates Charles Sturt is renewing his bid after being elected but retiring early in the last term. Charles has certainly shown great interest in Rotoiti affairs in past years. Both Dennis Finn and Kath Peebles are well respected Ngongotaha residents who are sure to receive a firm following and complete a very good line up.

In the Mayoralty stakes, sitting Mayor Grahame Hall has held the seat for the past six years. Grahame is an excellent ambassador for Rotorua and readily makes

himself available to attend ratepayer meetings. His strongest challenge will undoubtedly come from another long serving and well received Councillor, Glenys Searancke who has likewise shown ready support for lakes issues. Other candidates are Shane Gibbons, Knocker Dean, Cliff Lee and Thomas Morgan.

In the race for Regional Council, we have already mentioned Tai Eru Morehu and Rosemary Michie. John Keaney is the remaining sitting member seeking re-election. John is the current Chairman and former long serving Mayor of Rotorua. He is another who has made every effort to attend ratepayer meetings and is widely experienced in local affairs. Of the other first time candidates, little is known. Ron Reid is a local valuer, while Tom Lynch is the son of retiring incumbent, Wendy Lynch. The remaining contenders are Anthony Clouston and John Jackman.

Meeting attendance figures for RDC Councillors over the past 3 years are:

Barry 92/95; Benfield 92/94; Bowie 84/91; Chadwick 56/60; Cook 90/91; Dean 76/90; Lepper 101/103; Maxwell 77/90; Minty 90/92; Mohi 60/89; Oppatt 85/96; Searancke 79/86.

In a note from the Combined Lakes Ratepayers Association, electors are reminded that the election of six members to the Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust is due four weeks after local body elections. CLRA unsuccessfully lobbied for both elections to run concurrently,

- a. as a cost saving measure.
- b. due to concerns amongst lakes ratepayers that four District Councillors including the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are present Trustees.

Over the last 3 years, CLRA has expressed some reservations that this constitutes a conflict of interest - keeping in mind the huge influence the RECT now has in Rotorua. Had these elections been held on the same day, those politicians trying to gain seats on both the Council and RECT would have been more obvious to voters. Whether it is deemed satisfactory for local body politicians to serve on RECT is for each voter to decide.

Profiles - North Ward Candidates

STEVE CHADWICK: The District Council is the focal point that promotes a wide array of activities and relationships which impact daily on its citizens, its well-being as a community, its visitors and the image it portrays to the world.

In serving my first term on Council I learnt to appreciate the importance of all these activities and how they should be balanced out in the interests of all ratepayers. The list is as wide as it is varied, from economics to tourism, sport to social objectives, our cultural heritage to our cultural mix, natural resources to city focus, our past and our future and so on.

Central to these elements are what I consider to be three important contributions that I know I can offer; vision, judgement and people.

I will be pressing for opportunities to share resources with other authorities both Regional and Territorial to try to keep rates within inflation. We face more reform of local bodies in the next three years and coupled with rates reform that will impact on us all. The manner in which we look at roading, stormwater and sewage network management will be a blueprint for Rotorua's future.

I am no longer a learner and will continue to advocate for rural and lakes communities in all of our business dealings. Having been kept informed of the issues from Rotoiti by the Ratepayers Association, I look forward to the opportunity to continue our relationship.

KNOCKER DEAN: This year I am seeking election as Mayor as well as North Ward Councillor. In the event that I am not elected as Mayor, I would like to be able to continue to represent the North Ward in the caring, honest way that I have done in the last six years.

I believe that over the last few years elected officials have all but lost control of Council. There is either too much delegated authority, or ineffectual leadership. Effective decision making is made more difficult by incorrect or insufficient information being channelled to most Councillors.

Under the present regime, Rotorua's future looks less than bright, especially for our younger residents. We must act

now to secure our future, not live in the past.

Strong representation and leadership free from outside political interference, or that of the Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust, is called for. I believe that I can satisfy those requirements.

DENNIS FINN: Having been asked to stand for Council as a representative of the people of the North Ward, I agreed because in this election, strong representation is a major consideration. Rotorua needs Councillors who are interested and can give strong advocacy on your behalf.

Born in Rotorua in 1947, I have had a lifetime involvement in the city and District including 20 years residing and working within the North Ward. Married to Colene, we have raised a family of three.

I am community service orientated and have a proven and sustainable record of commitment over 23 years to the education of the young people of our District, including Chairman of Western Heights High School Board of Trustees for the past 10 years, and present member of the Waiariki Polytechnic Council.

I have a willingness to represent the people of the North Ward and serve the wider community with commitment and determination. I trust you agree that its 'a logical move' and ask for your support.

MITA MOHI: Mita is completing his first term as a District Councillor having served on the Works, Parks and Recreation and Finance/Tourism Committees. Married with six children and thirteen grandchildren, he is currently a tutor at the Waiariki Polytechnic; a member of the national Parole Board, Ngongotaha Businessmen's Association, Te Waiariki Purea Trust and Second Chance Railway Trust; Justice of the Peace; Rotorua North Rotarian; and Kaumatua (Elder) for the Rotorua Police District.

In 1995, Mita received an MBE and Rotorua Community Award for services to youth having trained over 9,000 young people in Maoritanga, taiha skills, and discipline at Mokoia Island.

With a fine sporting background, Mita

Profiles - North Ward Candidates - cont

has represented New Zealand in Rugby League, Bay of Plenty in rugby, and was a top New Zealand Maori Tennis player. He has also been a Professional Wrestler and was a Rotorua Junior Boxing Champ.

As a candidate for Council, he will continue to support employment, youth, sport, education and tourism issues.

KATH PEEBLES: Kia ora tatou. I have been a resident of Ngongotaha for the past 18 years having moved here from Matamata to purchase the Ngongotaha Four Square Store. With my family, we currently own a new business, cleaning septic tanks and grease traps.

I have always enjoyed taking an active interest in the community of Ngongotaha and over the years have been involved as Secretary of the Business Association, Trustee of the Ngongotaha Achievers Trust, Ngongotaha Festival Committee, President of the Ngongotaha Netball Club, and more recently Secretary of the Ngongotaha and Districts Communities Charitable Trust who propose to build a large Community and Leisure Centre in the town. I am currently Chairperson of the Ngongotaha Community Association.

As a hard working person with a proven record, I believe I have the energy and determination to achieve good outcomes for all residents and families that live in the North Ward. I believe in a collaborative approach and representing all people to the best of my ability. I would be proud to look after the interests of all communities, families and residents throughout the Rotorua District. Please vote for a refreshing change, a positive alternative!

CHARLES STURT: As a former Councillor, I offer my experience and, with my wife Denise, who has now recovered from a serious illness, wish to renew our commitment to the electors in the North Ward.

I will contribute to constructive debate, keep in contact with the people, meet ratepayer groups, work hard on the committees of Council and reflect your views. Issues facing the North Ward include the impact of sealing Pyes Pa Road, Water Supply for Mourea, Sewering of lakeside settlements, environmental monitoring, eastern arterial route, operation budgets, debt levels and rate increases.

The message from ratepayers is simple. Many are on fixed incomes, recent job losses have had an impact, small business operators are closing, farmers and householders are finding it more difficult to pay rate rises. I will endeavour to provide the leadership necessary to reviewing Council spending in areas where they shouldn't be involved, in particular Social Services and services that can be contracted out to the private sector.

I have had a lifetime involvement in sport, serving on the Hillary Commission and currently as a Director of the Bay of Plenty RFU. I am Chairman of Finance on the Ngongotaha School Board and a Trustee of the Ngongotaha and Districts Community Charitable Trust.

I believe that Council should reflect all sectors of its community. I have the time, experience and energy, and the support of my wife Denise and family to make a positive but questioning contribution for the people of the North Ward.



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North Ward Candidates - cont

FRED WHATA: Of Ngati Pikiao descent, I was born in Rotoiti and have lived and worked in Rotorua all my life. 33 years with the Ministry of Works and 9 years with the Justice Department have given me an extensive knowledge of many of the Districts assets and a broad insight into the social problems which impact on the economic development and well-being of the Rotorua community.

Having served on numerous community, school and sports committees, I believe that I can make a worthwhile contribution in helping to maintain and enhance the image and lifestyle of Rotorua for the benefit of all. My aim will be to apply a common sense approach to all issues

which come before Council, ensure the transparent and efficient use of resources, and keep any rate increases to within an affordable level.

With a special interest in the lakes, I am keen to see the completion and application of the Lakes Management Strategy so that these unique assets may be appropriately protected whilst providing sustainable development for the ongoing enjoyment of all New Zealanders.

Rotorua has seen some great progress and enhancements in recent years. There are still many challenges ahead and I have a strong will and desire to be part of the team entrusted with steering the District into the new millenium.

ROTORUA MAYORALTY CANDIDATES

GRAHAME HALL: As your Mayor, I offer proven leadership, vision and continuing total commitment. My priorities are:

- .employment opportunity through managed growth to help bridge the socio-economic gap.

- .to support initiatives which further develop youth, sporting activities, the arts, culture and music.

- .a safe, healthy community.

- .rate reductions.

- .the protection and enhancement of our environment.

- .continued partnership with Te Arawa.

We have achieved much through continuity of leadership and team work. I, supported by my wife Sandy, will be proud to maintain our strong partnership between Council and the community.

Vote Grahame Hall, Your Mayor to Keep Rotorua Moving.

GLENYS SEARANCKE: Married to husband Graham with an adult family, we have lived in Rotorua for 31 years. Throughout this time, I have always been involved in community affairs. I was elected to Council in 1986 and would like to give greater service to the District as your Mayor.

I would lead a full appraisal of all cost centres of Council with a view to

rates reduction, and a re-examination of core services ratepayers are expected to fund.

I pledge to work for all citizens by providing strong, honest leadership. I have the motivation, energy, experience and concern to be involved in shaping Rotorua's future and sincerely seek your support to be Mayor.

Nau te rourou, naku te rourou, Ka ora te iwi. Your baskets of knowledge and my baskets of knowledge - together we will succeed.

SHANE GIBBONS: It's time for change.

Rotorua's growth and the 21st century require vision, innovation, creativity. We need to change the current culture within Council, create a fertile environment for business. We need to make Rotorua a safer, viable, exciting place to live and work, both socially and environmentally.

Shane Gibbons can effect change because:

- . He thinks and acts strategically.
- . He is an experienced Chairperson, has the strength, acumen and skill to get the best from staff and Council.
- . He has a proven employment background in law and management.
- . He has the enthusiasm, energy, courage and commitment of youth.

ROTORUA MAYORALTY CANDIDATES - cont

CLIFF LEE: Married with two adult sons. Sincerely believes that no nation can offer special privilege based upon ethnic background and survive as a peaceful, prosperous place to live. In the end, all citizens will suffer grievously from the allocation of unequal rights and privileges, eg Rwanda, Northern Ireland.

I will make every effort to ensure that our lakes remain in public ownership and that all citizens of Rotorua enjoy equal rights and opportunities. I will resist spending ratepayers money or allow ethnically based constraints on building and property development permits.

THOMAS G.P. MORGAN: Aged 34, a single European New Zealander. Describes himself as an intelligent and lateral thinker with sense of humour, excellent communication skills, dedicated and diligent worker and humanitarian.

As a Management Graduate and Consultant has been involved in television and video production, Levene's, Census Enumerator, Group Rentals, Logistic Advisor Rotorua Marathon, and Telethon Publicity. Has made a number of submissions to Government policy proposals, is a National Party member at local level, and previous Mayoralty candidate.

Environment BOP (Regional Council) Candidates

JOHN KEANEY: My motivation in offering myself for re-election is to ensure that any structural changes to local government in the BOP will continue to bring about the best environmental outcomes for the people of the Rotorua District. As a proactive person, I am prepared to use my experience and negotiating skills to make this happen.

The protection and preservation of Rotorua's unique environmental features, its lakes and geothermal activity, are issues which must continue to be kept to the forefront of Councillors around the table in Whakatane.

In the next term of Council, I would be pressing for the use of the vast data base accumulated by Environment BOP to develop practical, common sense policies aimed at the protection of the Regions natural resources.

To make this a reality and to ensure that the region is not over-governed or over-rated, I offer total commitment to the electors of the Rotorua District.

ROSEMARY MICHIE: Our family have lived in Mourea for 26 years. During that time, I have been active in community organisations and was a District Councillor. I have been a Regional Councillor for the past three years.

In the next few years, the lakes strategy, septic tanks in lakeside settlements and geothermal issues will be important environmental matters for

Rotorua. It is always my aim that the community, Regional and District Councils work together to solve these problems. The most valuable legacy that we can leave our grandchildren is clear water, pure air and productive stable soil conditions. This is what the work of the Regional Council is about. I do my best to achieve these outcomes and ask for your support in the forthcoming election.

TAI ERU MOREHU: Born and bred in Rotoiti, with a solid background in farming and community service, I have been encouraged to stand for Regional Council and believe that I am well equipped to make a meaningful contribution and to represent the interests of our citizens in the ever important field of environmental management.

As a co-opted member of Environment BOP's Operations and Rural Services Committee for the past seven years, I have acquired considerable knowledge dealing with natural resource programmes and environmental issues throughout the Bay of Plenty catchments.

We all have a collective responsibility to manage and protect our natural resources for this and future generations. I offer myself as part of the decision making team entrusted with these goals.

Profiles for **ANTHONY CLOUSTON**, **JOHN JACKMAN**, **TOM LYNCH** and **RONALD REID** are not available.

'TOWARDS A TE ARAWA LAKES STRATEGY'

our submission to the working document (pgs 9 - 14)

Thank you for the opportunity to appraise the document 'Towards a Te Arawa Lakes Strategy'. We wish to firstly re-establish our credentials by outlining our previous involvement in the area of lakes management and control. This will help to demonstrate our strong interest and commitment in ensuring that adequate measures are adopted for future development and protection of our lakes, particularly Lake Rotoiti.

In former years, principle concerns centred around the proliferation of aquatic weed and its effect on the lakes and lake margins in terms of aesthetic quality and recreation. Resident groups such as The Guardians of the Lake and latterly The Lakeweed Society, both Rotoiti based, were formed in response to these growing anxieties and became pro-active in promoting greater awareness of the problems and advocating programmes for remedial action.

Increasing residential development around the lake margins and several infrastructural proposals, some of which were seen to be of detrimental value, saw the emergence of the West Rotoiti Ratepayers and Residents Association, later to become Lake Rotoiti Ratepayers and Residents Association.

In the late 1980's, frustrations began to mount over the lack of co-ordinated management in dealing with issues considered to be of importance for the future well-being of the lake and lake catchments. Efforts to establish responsibility for various maintenance and functional requirements were often

undermined by the apparent absence of clear delegation to the many authorities now involved in environmental and regulatory management.

The ongoing problem of lakeweed control eventually prompted the Association to call for a meeting between all of the relevant parties, including our local Members of Parliament, to debate matters arising from these deficiencies, and look at options for the establishment of a far more coherent management regime than existed. This meeting, attended by virtually all of those with a legislative or vested interest was convened at Moose Lodge on 15 November 1991 and was seen to be influential in the development of mutual co-operation and greater commitment to addressing a number of management issues requiring early attention. The advent of the Resource Management Act reinforced these objectives and led to the Rotorua Lakes Project Liaison Group which was set up by Environment BOP in 1994 to facilitate the preparation of a Rotorua Lakes Regional Plan.

The complexity of developing a Plan that would effectively coordinate the wishes and requirements of the many interested parties became apparent at the outset and further meetings were slow to evolve. In the same year, promulgation of the Draft Rotorua District Plan meant that the attention of Lakes Ratepayer Groups was diverted to assess the multitude of issues which were intended to form the basis of regulatory control for the next 10 years or more.



Of immediate concern was the exclusion of a specific chapter devoted to the lakes and lake catchments. Rather, the various objectives, policies and rules relating to the lakes could be found in other parts of the Plan but they were considered to be deficient in providing for the sustainable management of the lakeside settlements and the unique environs surrounding them.

In submissions to the Proposed Rotorua District Plan, we firstly considered Part 4 'Significant Resource Management Issues' to be a most critical and fundamental part of the Document. It was believed, however, that it contained no clear, coherent and comprehensive statement outlining the future strategy for the sustainable management of the natural and physical resources of the District's lakes and their catchments. Such a strategy was seen as an important complementary vision as to how issues such as nutrient enrichment of water bodies, protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes, tourism, economic development, and cultural heritage should be protected or enhanced.

The other principal debate centred on Part 10 'Rural Resource Management' which essentially treated all of Rotorua's rural areas, including lake catchments and lakeside settlements, in a comparative fashion. Although lakeside settlements were separately zoned Rural E, there was a strong feeling that the distinctive qualities of 'rural character' as pertaining to lakeside settlements, and indeed specific lake catchment areas in toto, did not necessarily match those of the rest of the rural estate. And although there were clear indicators through various rules intended to restrict lakeside development, protect landscapes and natural features, enhance water quality, etc, there were also uncertainties in the proposed treatment of a number of activities which were seen as having the ability to compromise such intentions.

In essence, we believed that the Plan should contain a separate Part setting out the objectives, policies, rules, and other appropriate provisions for

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the sustainable management of the lake catchment areas identified within the 'Rotorua Lakes Landscape Assessment Report'. This would allow for a specific vision for the lakes, acknowledge their integral qualities and significance, and develop special provisions which would address sensitive landscapes, rural character, and balance the use and development of the lakes environment given their uniqueness both locally and nationally. It was considered that the fundamental contribution the lakes made to the overall physical and economic importance of the environment of the District should be dealt with in this way.

The requests made in these submissions were largely rejected by the Statutory Hearings Committee during early 1996 which left us to ponder the next course of action. However, further discussions with Rotorua District Council shortly afterwards resulted in a proposal to implement a 'Lakes Management Strategy' which would address all of the integral issues pertaining to the lakes with a targeted completion date of June 1998. It was intended that the Strategy would then form the basis of a new Chapter in the District Plan.

In the meantime, environmental group Kaitiaki Tarawera lodged an appeal with the Environment Court in respect of similar issues sought as variations to the District Plan but also

rejected. Significantly, this was upheld earlier this year resulting in a requirement for the preparation of a separate Chapter dealing with the Tarawera Lakes Catchment area. Our concerns that this variation should deal with all lakes were partly allayed with assurances that the Lakes Management Strategy was almost ready for public consultation and that the Tarawera variation would be used as a model to address issues in other lakes catchments.

And so we have reached a further stage in what has become an absorbing exercise, the promulgation of the introductory document 'Towards a Te Arawa Lakes Strategy'. The first thing that we must say is that we are extremely impressed with its thorough and comprehensive inclusion of all salient issues. We do not detect any significant omissions from the list of Principles.

We also applaud the efforts of the Working Group in communicating and debating the issues at this early stage. Our preamble may be seen as a measure of the predilection we have towards ensuring that adequate controls are put in place for protection and future developments within the lakes environment. It is considered that our further contribution at this stage can be best made by re-stating those issues which we believe reflect the aspirations and concerns of the majority of those living within the Lake Rotoiti catchment.

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Rotorua, DX JP30011

Plan Contents and Delegation of Responsibility.

There have been strong thoughts previously which have leant towards the establishment of a single lakes authority to have responsibility for the overall management of the lakes. The current regime in which this responsibility is divested in a multiplicity of statutory bodies often frustrates efforts to bring about change in a coherent and cohesive manner. The present commitment of the three parties to work alongside each other in formulating this Strategy could go a long way towards remedying some of the past shortcomings.

In reviewing the Principles of Lakes and Catchment Management contained in the Strategy, we believe that the issues are correctly stated and that appropriate principles and realistic outcomes follow. Whilst the questions of implementation and responsibility for monitoring and reporting are more readily apparent in some instances than in others, we intend to rely on the expertise of the recognised planners for initial assessment.

With regard to costs, we would make the observation that these lakes are national as well as local icons. Notwithstanding user pays principles, some of the costs in meeting the requirements of environmental stability should continue to be borne by central Government agencies, eg aquatic weed control.

Water Quality.

There have been numerous reports, some comprehensive, regarding the contribution of excessive nutrient loading to declining water quality. Improvements to Lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti attributable to the removal of direct input of treated sewage and the virtual disappearance of 'water net' have become somewhat tempered by outbreaks of algal bloom over the past two years. Recent proliferations of 'white foam' clogging

the surface areas of both lakes is a further threat to water quality.

Lakeweed control has been the subject of sustained lobbying by this Association and allied groups for several decades. Continuation of present funding and levels of spraying to control aquatic weed in Lake Rotoiti and other lakes are considered essential in assisting in the maintenance and enhancement of water quality.

The transferral of responsibility for lakeweed spraying from DOC to LINZ last year has again become a concern with the recent closure of the LINZ office in Rotorua. Local liaison has been paramount in ensuring optimum deliverance and we intend to request that this responsibility be re-delegated to DOC to protect the protocols built up over past years.

We support the principle of lake margin retirement, where possible, to reduce the direct input of (especially) animal effluent to the lake waters. The need to address the problem of septic tanks in low lying settlements, for both public health and environmental reasons, has already been recognised by both Environment BOP and Rotorua District Council. For those lakeside communities highlighted in the On Site Effluent Treatment Regional Plan, eg Mourea, this is a high priority.

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Environmental Protection and Sustainable Future Development.

The principle of 'ensuring that the environment upon which tourism in the District is based, is not compromised' is widely upheld within our lakes communities. There is some irony in this statement given concerns that some tourism related ventures such as white water rafting have been allowed to take precedence over the need to address sensitive environmental and cultural issues. The maintenance of natural features (including cultural heritage) and landscapes as part of the 'rural character' of the lakes is of great importance to most. So too is the maintenance and enhancement of low ambient noise levels, low levels of air and water pollution, and the quality and quantity of native vegetation and wildlife.

These desires have been reinforced by the majority of those participating in the recent Rotorua Strategic Plan Focus Groups. However, most will agree with the concept that appropriate and sustainable developments are acceptable provided that these important environmental objectives are not unduly compromised.

Counteractive to this, we see confliction in the present designation of some activities within the Rural E Zone of the Proposed District Plan. For example, we believe any large scale tourist developments should be classified as 'non-complying' as should heliports and helipads within the Water Zones A and B. Likewise, moorings and ski lanes, jetties, ramps and boatsheds would be more appropriately classified as 'discretionary'. We see a strong justification to publicly consult and/or take into account public sentiment in

considering proposed activities which could have a significant impact on sensitive environments around the lake.

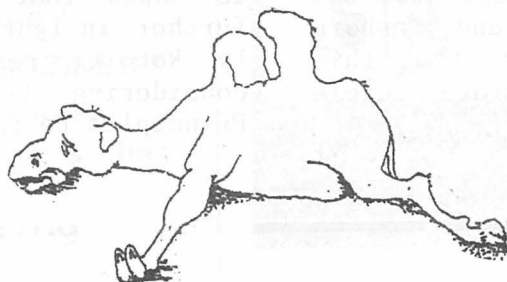
Notwithstanding, it is also recognised that Rotoiti has a number of well established 'urbanised' settlements at various locations around the lake. There are around 950 residential property owners with an estimated 50 percent of these being absentee owners, ie primarily domiciled elsewhere, using their lake properties as holiday retreats. Our local Ngati Pikiao iwi have maintained their strong influence on the lake catchment and retain uninterrupted occupation and ownership of approximately 75 percent of the land mass. Over the past 30 years or so, they have developed a number of business Trusts and Incorporations with significant economic interests in farming and (more particularly) production forestry.

In addition, there is a large and ever increasing visitor population who converge on the lake especially between December and March. Many of these use the lake for boating and other water based recreational activities with trout fishing the other major attraction. Statistically, Rotoiti has the greatest number of visitors, boat users, and angler days of any of the Rotorua lakes. Out of all this comes a number of observations which we believe reflects local opinion.

The containment of lakeside settlement to existing areas is supported for reasons of both environmental protection and economies of scale. However, the aspirations of local tangata whenua to utilise their lands for future housing, including papakainga development, needs to be acknowledged and provided for within a framework of reasonable controls.

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Because of the relatively large proportion of private land holding around Lake Rotoiti, access to the lake remains limited. Several of the Scenic and Esplanade Reserves available to the public are only accessible from the lake itself. Calls for greater accessibility generally means more boat ramps, extra parking for vehicles and boat trailers, more ski lanes, etc.

Over the past few years, the pressure exerted on Lake Rotoiti by recreational users over the peak summer and holiday season has become increasingly obvious. The right to public access is a fundamental principle but much as this needs to be preserved it is of equal importance to balance the provision of access and recreational pursuit with the need to maintain environmental integrity and the rights of communities to a level of protection for those values which have already been defined. Just as it is appropriate to contain lakeside settlement, it would be similarly prudent to restrict the size and number of access points which would then tend to assist in regulating the number of users at any one time and maintain the eco-balance desired by most.

In recent years, the pressure from burgeoning numbers of lake users has been recognised by the allocation of additional resources to police lake surface activities. The efforts of the lakes Inspectorate over this period has been commendable. Complementary to any regulatory control is user education. This becomes more evident with the increasing numbers of larger and faster craft now frequenting the lake. Jet Skis, in particular, have the potential to create significant friction in the future both with other users and lake residents. Solutions need to be found to address issues of incompatibility and injudicial use of these craft. Water skiers too are becoming more populous and seek out every inch of space, often to the detriment of other users and inshore sanctuaries. It is essential that this demand be met by commensurate levels of surveillance and control.

The availability and presence of Inspectorate staff over the pressure periods is vital. The necessity to provide sufficient future resources for this purpose must be recognised.

Lake Levels.

Up until 18 months ago, there was considerable dissatisfaction amongst Rotoiti residents regarding lake level control and the lack of concern and response from Environment BOP. Since that time, a negotiated agreement to new consent conditions and enhanced co-operation and consultation between EBOP and local parties has seen a dramatic improvement in maintaining acceptable control. An upcoming review is likely to see some fine tuning and set the standard which needs to be sustained for the future.

Document Title.

The Document title in deference to Te Arawa's historical role and traditional association with the lakes has generated some concern. This is primarily in the form of anxiety and speculation over any likely changes to protocols should Te Arawa be successful in their Waitangi Tribunal claims to ownership. We acknowledge that the Lakes Strategy concerns only management and not ownership. We believe that it would be helpful and reassuring to include a brief resume of the scope of the claims and the main effects that a successful outcome may have on the future management of the lakes and their catchments.

Conclusion.

As already indicated, we believe that most of these issues have been accommodated within the Principles proposed in the Working Document. It is hoped that the detail will provide further insight into those matters seen by Rotoiti residents as important in considering the application of those Principles to form future policies.

West Rotoiti Fire Force News

The high number of call outs has continued throughout the year, with 32 to date. There has been a mix of vehicle crashes, domestic call outs such as a recent chimney fire, a farm building containing hazardous materials that burnt to the ground, a scrub fire in close proximity to houses, and our first plane crash.

It was inevitable that the unit would eventually be called to a plane crash due to our location in relation to Rotorua airport. This incident occurred late on a Friday afternoon but a film crew were also on the scene very quickly and our team made the national news the same evening. As with many car smashes, some of our team knew the victims who died in the crash. Post-incident stress is a factor that we take into account after attendance at serious incidents.

The Rotorua District Council has recently contracted management of the volunteer fire units in the District, including West Rotoiti, to the Fire Service. Our relationship with RDC has been very good and we hope that the new arrangement also works well.

A reminder that 1998 is the 15th anniversary of the Incorporated Society and we are planning a reunion to mark the event on Saturday 10 October. The AGM will be held on Sunday 11 October at the fire station commencing 2.00pm.

Remember to check the batteries in your smoke alarms, check the servicing requirements on fire extinguishers, and get electric blankets checked before using. If you haven't got smoke alarms or extinguishers then you should seriously think about getting some to provide for better safety. Also remember that chimneys need annual cleaning and it is not necessarily expensive to get a chimney sweep to come from town. Costs can be minimised by getting more than one house done at the same time. **Taking some basic safety precautions may save the lives of family or friends.**

If you have any queries about the Unit, please contact:

Willie Shaw (Ph 362-4315)
Ted Boucher (Ph 362-4815)

Noel Ruebe (Ph 362-4814)
Dan Arrowsmith (Ph 362-4477)

Annual subscriptions (\$10) may be sent to our Treasurer, Judy Smith (8 Foster Road, RD4 Rotorua). Any donations are always appreciated.

Please ensure that you continue to contact the District Council for fire permits.

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	Maureen Doherty	Hamurana Road	Ph 362-4866
	Bill Kingi	Parcliffe	Ph 345-7186
	Gillian Marks	Te Akau Road	Ph 362-4804
	Nick Miller	Te Akau Road	Ph 362-4747
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