



# Lake Rotoiti Ratepayers & Residents Association



Ohau Channel paving its way into Lake Rotoiti

## Kia Ora Greetings from the Lake

Another year is rapidly drawing to a close as we continue to keep our eyes and ears keenly tuned to the events and occurrences of the District and particularly those which concern Lake Rotoiti. Some issues, such as the On-Site Effluent Treatment Regional Plan, have been on the boil whilst a host of others remain on the simmer awaiting positive direction or otherwise.

Your committee has again devoted considerable time and effort in attempting to ensure that our ratepayer dollars are fairly and equitably distributed, and that any outcome in terms of regulation changes, funding proposals, or other decisions are appropriate and acceptable, firstly for those upon whom they impact directly, and secondly for the District as a whole. We believe, and sincerely hope, that our interest and intervention has helped to realise or at least enhance the expectations of our communities.

The Association is once again grateful for the solid backing received from its more than 400 subscribers who provide the strength and support behind the many submissions and requests which are made on behalf of Rotoiti stakeholders. Many thanks also to our sponsors and advertisers, all of whom assist us in meeting our goals and objectives. May we take this opportunity to wish each and everyone another joyous Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Chairman:  
Jim Stanton  
Tel: 362 4690

Secretary:  
Mary Stanton  
Tel: 362 4690

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

Fax 362 4690

# From the Chairman

Whilst several ongoing issues have continued to occupy our time, 1999 has also given rise to a number of controversial matters over the course of the year. Not least of these is a proposal by former Lake Rotoiti and Combined Lakes Ratepayers Association Chairman, Lindsay Brighthouse, that Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust funds be transferred by way of loan or grant to retire the \$40 million debt currently held by Rotorua District Council, thereby reducing the burden for each Rotorua ratepayer by an estimated 13 percent.

As would be expected, this suggestion has generated a great deal of debate both for and against. Those in support argue that it makes economic sense for the 'under-utilised' assets of RECT which total around \$100 million to be used for the greater benefit of Rotorua's citizens who effectively own the Trust. Opposing this view are those who believe that the funds should remain within RECT to be used for the charitable purposes prescribed by the Trust Deed.

Because of the interest surrounding this proposal, we are seeking the individual response of our residents to a referendum on the subject, explained elsewhere in this issue.

The landfill litigation between Rotorua District Council and Environment BOP earlier this year which cost ratepayers more than \$50,000 left a number of pertinent questions unanswered. Whilst EBOP has steadfastly defended its responsibility to prosecute those in breach of the RMA whoever they may be (RDC admitted their guilt), there will remain in our minds a genuine belief that the matter could and should have been resolved through reasonable and co-operative dialogue which would have saved us the unnecessary expense.

And then there is the saga of the On-Site Effluent Treatment Regional Plan which requires a number of communities including Mourea, Gisborne Point and Hinehopu to adhere to a three-yearly inspection and cleaning regime for all septic tanks and an obligation to upgrade systems where they fail to meet various criteria. Most will have no difficulty with the underlying principles of such a plan but there are certainly legitimate arguments over the way in which it has been implemented. That both EBOP and RDC continue to be at variance over the issue highlights a disturbing trend that sees ratepayers again subjected to what may well be excessive and unnecessary cost.

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Further issues which are likely to spark considerable interest and debate in coming months are reviews of the Strategic Plan and Funding Policy (in particular rating differentials), and the ongoing question as to whether RDC should continue to fund Tourism Marketing. In addition, we still await some positive movement towards progressing the Lakes Management Strategy which we remain hopeful will play a meaningful part in future proposals pertaining to activities on and around the lake.

Whilst the foregoing identifies areas of concern, there continues to be some positive and beneficial outcomes with regard to local issues. The overall improvements to SH33 between Whangamarino and Okere Falls are plainly visible and should enhance safety in the area. The road surface is scheduled to be re-sealed over the summer. Installation of the lake navigation lights is complete and has received favourable response. Some (seemingly inevitable) vandalism has resulted in the jetty lights having to be resited onto integral poles set in the lake bed.

Following a meeting of local residents, resolution was reached on the siting of a Class 2 boatramp/jetty on Lake Rotorua at Mourea behind the Pikiaro Rugby League grounds. RDC has approved the proposal in principle and latest indications are that agreement has been reached over land easement and access with a start possible in January 2000.

A public water supply is a step closer in coming to Mourea following the recent Questionnaire sent out by RDC. Results show sufficient support within the area previously defined and should result in commencement of the legal statutory process shortly.

The level of Lake Rotoiti, always a sensitive issue, has been well maintained during 1999 due to the invariably good response from EBOP's engineers. The overall improvement over the past 2½ years is due in no small part to the excellent monitoring and liaison work of our local man on the spot, Michael Gill. Problems with the Okere Tower have continued to cause inaccurate readings and need to be resolved to maintain future integrity.

The latest 3-yearly property valuations are causing concern for some in terms of the size of increase and the possible impact on rates. Whilst accepted that these valuations are for 'rating' purposes only, early indications are that many do not reasonably reflect market values which is not only misleading but, moreover, will upset the intended social equilibrium in striking future rates.

With the Annual General Meeting of the Association to be held on 9 January 2000, it is timely to encourage new faces on to the committee. Inquiries from anyone, especially those living in East Rotoiti, who has the inclination to help represent the interests of the community would be very much welcomed.

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OF THE

# Lake Rotoiti Ratepayers & Residents Association

to be held at

Pikiaro Rugby League Clubrooms, Takinga Street, Mourea

10.00am Sunday, 9 January 2000

### AGENDA:

- |   |                            |   |                       |
|---|----------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| * | Welcome                    | * | Financial Report      |
| * | Apologies                  | * | Election of Committee |
| * | Minutes of Previous A.G.M. | * | Guest Speakers        |
| * | Matters Arising            | * | General Business      |
| * | Chairmans Report           |   |                       |

*Light refreshments available at conclusion of meeting*



# LAKE ROUNDABOUT

## LAKES INSPECTORATE BOAT.

Last year, in conjunction with Combined Lakes Ratepayers Association, we asked RDC, through the Annual Plan submissions, to give strong consideration towards upgrading the Lakes Inspectorate boat. The present vessel is demonstrably deficient in a number of areas given the upsurge in high speed craft and increased maintenance tasks on our lakes, particularly Rotoiti.

RDC debated the matter over the next several months and resolved to explore the option of tendering out the maintenance work by calling for expressions of interest. It is understood that four responses were received from which tender specifications are only now being prepared. There has also been some verbal indication that upgrading of the boat for regulatory purposes is likely to proceed as part of next year's budget.

Whilst this is good news, we had hoped that the purchase would be finalised in time for this summer. We also believe that our interests would be better served by both functions remaining as part of the responsibility of the Inspectorate.

## JETSKIS.

The Local Government Amendment Bill (No 3) passed earlier this year allows local authorities to continue to exercise local control over navigation safety. It also gave powers to create by-laws requiring jetskis to be marked and identified (registered). In addition, the introduction of infringement fees of up to \$1,000 when navigation safety by-laws were breached has provided more teeth for enforcement officers.

Jetskis, used injudiciously, cause much anger and alarm, and are considered by many to be a 'pest' in terms of noise generation as well as a potential danger to other water craft users and swimmers. Recently, a jet skier was prosecuted in Tauranga Harbour for speeding within a 5 knot zone and endangering swimmers close by. He was fined \$250 plus court costs of \$130.

It is to be hoped that prosecutions such as this along with more effective controls over this type of activity will act as a deterrent to those who flout the laws and compromise the safety and enjoyment of others.

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Dominique Gillespie, Manupirua Thermal Springs Coordinator

Okawa Bay lake resort, Private bag 3035, Rotorua.

Tel: 07-362-4599 Fax: 07-362-4594 Email: okawabay@clear.co.nz



# LAKE INSPECTORS REPORT *Dave Pilkington*

## Regulatory Presence

Regulatory patrols on Lake Rotoiti this summer will again be undertaken by Rick Holden. Rick is a resident at Gisborne Point and his location there means that he can have a presence on Rotoiti when it is busy, vary his hours according to demand, and respond to calls quickly. His boat name is 'Mal Hombre' - radio call sign ZMY 2185. Rick can be contacted on Ph 362-7676.

## Navigation Beacons

Installation of the beacons on lakes Rotoiti, Rotorua and Tarawera was completed 31 October. In all, 22 beacons were installed. For the information of residents and boat operators, the location of beacons and their flashing frequencies are:-

<b>Lake Rotoiti</b> , Okawa Bay	Channel Leads	Amber	3	Steady flashing
Te Akau Point	South Cardinal Light	Amber	1	6 quick & 1 long flash
Tumoana Point	Port Lateral Light	Red	1	Steady flashing
Kuhara Point	Starboard Lateral Light	Green	1	Steady flashing
Te Rerengaotemokai Point	East Cardinal Light	Amber	1	3 quick flashes 5 sec.
Te Tuki Tuki Reef	South Cardinal Light	Amber	1	6 quick & 1 long
Pateko Island	East and West Cardinal Lights	Amber	2	East 3 quick, West 9 quick
Waipuna Delta	Boat Ramp	Blue	1	Steady flashing
Gisborne Point	Boat Ramp	Blue	1	Steady flashing
Hinehopu	Boat Ramp	Blue	1	Steady flashing
<b>Lake Rotorua</b> , The Pins,	South Cardinal Light	Amber	1	6 quick & 1 long
Motutara	Boat Ramp	Blue	1	Steady flashing
Hamurana Stream	Boat Ramp	Blue	1	Steady flashing
Hamurana	Boat Ramp	Blue	1	Steady flashing
Reame Street	Boat Ramp	Blue	1	Steady flashing

Unfortunately, lights identifying boat ramps have been interfered with on six boat ramps. Initially, these lights were mounted on stainless steel tubes fixed to the end of each jetty in the belief that keeping them away from vehicle access would keep them safe. This was too tempting for the vandals who bent them over. We have since replaced them by siting out off the jetties in the lake bed. Three have been stolen from Rotorua. **Any information on anyone seen interfering with any navigation aid would be most appreciated.**

## Cyanobacteria (Blue Green Algae)

High spore counts in water samples taken from Lake Rotoehu have resulted in health warnings being issued in early November. This bloom is a much earlier occurrence than in previous years. Comments made by a NIWA scientist in an address to Rotorua local body representatives indicate that this algae and it's effects will be a regular event in future. Okawa Bay is most likely to be affected again and it is important that residents recognise the health risks when algae bloom spore counts reach high levels. Of particular concern is getting the message across to people renting Okawa Bay properties over the summer and holiday periods.



**New Summer Menu**  
Here's a taste of the new selection

### APPETISERS

\* Fresh seafood, capsicum and herbs marinated in lime juice & coconut milk.

### MAIN

\* Venison denver fillet baked pink with creamed parsnip puree, beetroot julienne and jus.

### DESSERTS

\* Pears poached in lavender syrup served around a vanilla ice cream centre smothered in a rich chocolate and vanilla anglaise sauce.

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# PARADE OF THE WOODEN BOATS

**WAITANGI DAY - 6 FEBRUARY 2000**

A day that Lake Rotoiti can proudly claim as it's very own - The Parade of the Wooden Boats - is 'on' again for next year, on Waitangi Day 6 February 2000. Planning is now complete for this unique day (the only one of it's kind in the country). All that is required now are lots of registrations and good weather.

Last year, nearly 50 boats of all ages, shapes and sizes entered the parade. Judging by the interest already shown, this should be easily exceeded for the millenium year parade. The organisers know of several old boats that are being completely restored for this great event and at least three boats are being built especially for the occasion!

To celebrate our multi-cultural life-style, the parade, after assembling as usual in the Okere Arm, will steam down the lake to Hauparu Bay. It will then re-assemble line abreast off the beach and wait to be led in by a waka for a ceremonial welcome onto Rakeiao Marae.

A buffet lunch will be available at the

Marae. One of New Zealand's best jazz bands, The Society Jazzmen from Auckland, will accompany the parade all the way - on a most interesting new lake cruiser just launched on Rotoiti by the Cameron family of Okere Arm.

It will undoubtedly be another great day. Excellent prizes will be awarded for various competitions which this year will feature a 'March Past' fashion parade to find the best dressed crew, hopefully in period costume.

Every wooden boat entered will receive a very special engraved plaque to recognise this unique day.

Entries are now open. Please do not delay as some leadtime is required to prepare the plaques which will be inscribed with each boat's name. Contact the Registrar, Ph (07)362-4700 or write to, The Registrar, Rotoiti Wooden Boats Parade, PO Box 2008, Rotorua.

**So get the paint brushes going folks - we want our Rotoiti 'Fleet' looking it's best for the big day!!**



## MANUPIRUA SPRINGS INC.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MEMBERS ONLY**

**To be held at Lynmore Primary School  
on Sunday 2 January 2000 at 10.00am**

# Mourea Water Supply

The District Council's questionnaire to re-confirm the level of support for the Proposed Mourea water supply scheme has finally been completed. Total response at the end of the exercise exceeded 80 percent of property owners. Unofficially the result was almost identical to the 1996 survey with support in the existing designated supply area (ie Okawa Bay Resort to the Delta) remaining above the 60 percent threshold.

We understand that Council will now commence the statutory process of declaring the water supply area by special order which will be communicated to all affected property owners who will then have the opportunity to object to the scheme. Once any objections have been resolved, Council can proceed with the design model which will include a necessity to secure land easements for pipeline and reservoir requirements. Further progress could be several months away pending the outcome of the statutory process.

Other matters of interest which came about as part of the investigations carried out this year included a consultants report which found that Hamurana Springs had the capacity to supply water to a population of up to 51,000. A Public Health sampling of bore water from 5 Mourea properties in September found that 4 of these exceeded the safe level of arsenic, some quite significantly.

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**POLICE**  
Nga Pirihimana O Aotearoa

**BLUEPRINT**

1999 is probably a year some people would prefer to forget. Violent home invasions, robberies and assaults seem to grab the headlines daily. We can only hope that things improve in future. There have been over 30 burglaries and thefts reported around your area this year. None of the crimes are out of the ordinary but most could have been prevented with a little more attention to security.

As from 1 December 1999, the police will be exercising new powers in regard to some of the alcohol-related offences such as minors either in a bar or consuming alcohol in public places. One of the more noticeable changes will be our ability to issue instant fines in much the same fashion as instant road-side speeding infringements. While it is targeting those under the age of 18 years, I ask that parents take heed of this and any other publicity and bring the message to the attention of their children.

The police have always been aware that traffic speeding through the 70kph zones is a problem and have been watching this closely. To those who get caught, the following is a list of the instant penalties imposed...

Any speeding offence, where the speed exceeds the speed limit by:	\$	\$
Not more than 10 kms an hour	30	
More than 10 kms an hour but not more than 15 kms an hour	80	More than 30 kms an hour but not more than 35 kms an hour 300
More than 15 kms an hour but not more than 20 kms per hour	120	More than 35 kms an hour but not more than 40 kms an hour 400
More than 20 kms an hour but not more than 25 kms an hour	170	More than 40 kms an hour but not more than 45 kms an hour 510
More than 25 kms an hour but not more than 30 kms an hour	230	More than 45 kms an hour but not more than 50 kms an hour 630

More than 50 kms an hour over any speed limit = Issue Traffic Offence Notice and Notice of Roadside Suspension of Driver Licence

With demerit points added, I think you would agree it's just not worth it! What you do deserve however, is some R & R over the festive season. The staff here joins me in wishing you all a safe and happy year 2000.

Senior Constable George Anaru  
Te Ngae Community Policing Centre

## Mobile Library Calendar

### Tuesday Route 1999/2000

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

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  - \* Music Cassettes and C.D.'s
  - \* Videos
- Special requests can be made for specific items.

# OHAI CHANNEL LODGE - REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

Auckland development company, Taradale Properties Ltd, have made application, as conditional purchasers, for a Resource Consent to re-develop the Ohai Channel Lodge on Hamurana Road. The consent is for a Notified Non-Complying Activity to permit the establishment and operation of an 80 unit residential and unit title development for private and tourist accommodation, and associated works and ancillary facilities.

It includes the establishment and use of a caretaker/managers accommodation unit, communal facilities including a clubhouse, swimming pool, tennis court and outdoor recreation facilities, and the upgrade of the existing boatramp into the Ohai Channel and widening the existing marina entry by dredging. The existing bore water supply will be utilised until a public scheme becomes available and a sealed sewage collection chamber will be constructed for off-site disposal at the city treatment plant.

Briefly, the proposal involves removing most of the existing buildings to make way for 80 two-storied unit dwellings, 7.5 metres in height, and the communal recreation facilities. The complex is designed to accommodate 280 persons.

In addition, it is proposed to set aside a 20 metre width reserve along the Lake Rotorua frontage and a 10 metre width reserve along the Ohai Channel frontage with public access being provided from Hamurana Road. Suitable landscaping, building design and materials are intended to minimise the off-site effects.

Some pre-consultation has taken place with adjacent property owners and other agencies. However, because there will be several matters of interest and concern within the community, a **Public Meeting with the applicants is being arranged and will be advertised accordingly.**

Submissions to the application close with RDC on Friday, 17 December 1999.

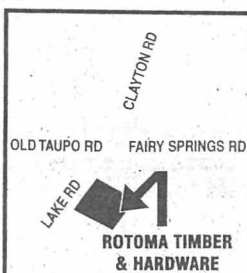


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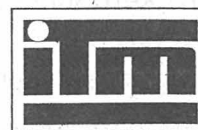


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# FUNDING FOR TOURISM MARKETING

Several years ago, alarm was expressed by a number of rural and lakes ratepayers representatives over the ever increasing amount of rates revenue being expended by Rotorua District Council to support the marketing of the tourism industry. In response, Council undertook to review their input and produced the document, 'Tourism Marketing Review' which provided background detail and justification for its involvement.

The document concluded with the recommendation that an active presence in tourism marketing and promotion be maintained as a key employment development strategy for the District. However, Council recognised the limit to the amount of ratepayers monies which should be used for this purpose and proposed to establish an industry working group to explore supplementary sources of funding.

Since then, calls have continued for Council to divest themselves of specific responsibility towards the Tourism Marketing sector on the grounds that most of the return from this activity is derived by those involved in the business. Whilst tourism is acknowledged as vital to the Rotorua economy, so too are the supporting industries of farming and forestry, neither of which benefit similarly from the public purse.

Last year, in response to this growing concern, the tourism lobby came out in force during Council's Annual Plan submissions, stating their support for continued funding by ratepayers on the

basis that they already make significant contributions to promoting the industry themselves and see the results as being hugely beneficial across the board. They believe that their efforts would be unsustainable without the support of Council's Tourism Marketing.

Many of our ratepayers insist that the time has come for the tourism sector to stand on its own feet and become more proactive in developing a self sufficient funding system. Certainly, there is a belief that Council's assistance to tourism marketing should now cease with a commensurate reduction in rates.

One of our own committee members, Michael Gill, has vigorously pursued this aim. In presenting a submission to the Tourism Advisory Board last year, he suggested that a levy be imposed upon every visitor (per person per day) who stays at a commercial accommodation premises overnight, as is done in many small towns and cities overseas. The premises would be used solely as a collecting agency, and the monies collected used for tourism purposes as decided by Rotorua District Council. NZ is a relatively cheap place to visit and a levy of \$3 per night would not be excessive compared to other countries. The charge could be offset by offering discounts in ticket form to various attractions around the city, offering visitors some positive return for their contribution. Considering overseas experience such a tax is unlikely to deter people from visiting the city.

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## TOURISM MARKETING CONT.

At the present time, the levy of any form of tax is illegal and would require a change in legislation from Central Government. Collection of such levies could present some difficulties, given the number of visitors to Rotorua who do not fit into the overseas tourist category. A simple and effective method of extracting the levy would need to be devised.

The ever increasing burden placed upon local government to fund its communities with the resultant emphasis on user pays should signal a necessity for the tourism industry to also find alternative ways and means to accommodate the costs of marketing the business.

Given the concern of many ratepayers over the last several years in regard to Council's expenditure on tourism marketing, we are planning to pursue the matter as part of next year's Annual Plan submissions. Any further endorsement along with comments and suggestions would be welcomed.

## DISTRICT VALUATIONS

The latest 3-yearly property valuations received last month have given rise to considerable concern due to the level of increase in most cases being around 30 to 50 percent over the 1996 figures. Whilst we endorse suggestions that the valuations seem over-inflated in many cases when compared to market expectation it should be pointed out that they are Rating Valuations for the purpose of setting rates only.

Council does not collect more revenue because of valuation changes. However, if residential valuations in one locality increase by a greater amount than those in other localities within the District, then that will trigger some change. Our information indicates that the average increase in eg Lynmore and Springfield is around 24 percent while those in Mourea are over 30 percent. On the face of it, such differences would seem inequitable and should be challenged. Objections must be made to Quotable Value NZ by **10 December 1999**. If you require assistance, give them a call!

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**Phone 362 7080**

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**NOEL & SUZANNE RUEBE**

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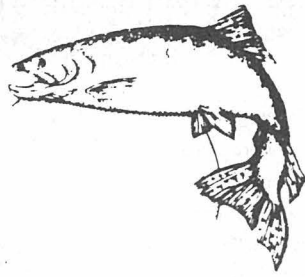
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## ANGLERS' CORNER



**'Give someone a fish and they will feed their family for a day -  
Teach them to fish and they will feed their family for a lifetime'**

**Opening Day - Ohau Channel.** 1 October, at 5.00am the usual 80 or so anglers lined the first downstream stretch from the weir to below the camp jetty. The first angler out to secure his 'possie' was Papamoa angler Bob Green who was camped out by his favourite clump of cannas at 8.30pm the previous night.

For the second year in a row, the Ohau produced the largest recorded trout in the region for opening day. This year, Tairua angler Renton Foote landed a 4.5kg brown on his very first 5.00am cast. 'I thought it was a lump of weed' Renton reported 'until the line started off'.

On a personal level, my opening morning would not rank as one of my best...along with many others I was at my 'possie' by 1.00am (it really is a kind of madness). By 3.00am the banks were crowded. At 4.55am, two latecomers rushed out and pushed into the reasonable space between the next angler and myself. I could have touched that guy with my outstretched arm (well almost). The result - I had to duck every time he cast. In addition, I developed a leaking crotch in my waders and a fellow angler wrapped a trace around my head - a grey ghost embedded (lightly) in my skull. Evening produced three nice fish which made up for the morning.

However...in spite of the above ramblings, it really is an event not to be missed - a marvellous mixture of magic and madness.

The weir has been fishing extremely well over the past two months. It's almost like a local club gathering down there of an evening - lots of laughing and anecdotes shouted above the roar of the weir. The usual method is a Jack Sprat on a very long line and allowed to swing back and forth prior to a slow

*Maureen Doherty*

retrieve often with a buried rod (to keep the fly down). Short casting in the turbulence can also be very productive.

The present high level in the Channel augers well for future fishing as the water remains cold keeping the fish in the river. A long hot November/December often sees the end of Channel fishing until April/May. It is a long way out to the Lake Rotorua lip with its deep water. Consequently, the Channel draws water from vast shallows which warm quickly.

**Ohau Channel Fish Pass.** It disappeared during the May storm and was finally discovered in October almost obscured in the sand at the bottom of the pool below the weir. In the meantime, responding to pressure, Environment BOP replaced it with a concrete model of (hopefully) improved design. Local expert, Frank Thompson reports that it seems to be working reasonably well. Although use of the recovered fish pass on the camp side is being considered, hopefully EBOP will simply replace the boulders as a cheaper method which will enable smelt and juvenile fish to slowly dribble through to Lake Rotorua.

However...when the enormous slaughter of smelt by shags and gulls is witnessed, one realises just how many are milling hopelessly trying to find their way over the weir, an unsatisfactory environmental situation. A student is to be employed during the holidays to monitor smelt flows. As the principal forage food of Lake Rotorua trout, smelt are of paramount importance to the fishery.

**Angler Survey.** During the opening two days, ERFGC officers interviewed 1065 anglers and measured 1030 fish, including 200 Rotoiti anglers with 150 fish. The average weight was 2.3kg. Best rainbow for the five lakes surveyed came from Rotoiti weighing in at 3.9kg.

**Kaituna River.** Last month, a Japanese tourist landed a 4.3kg fish on a spinning rod from the Trout Pool. He returned the following day and landed a 3.2kg trout but unfortunately had his car broken into. Lake Rotoiti trout are known to swim downstream from the Okere Arm, quite a journey given the initial stretch of river is rife with gushing chasms and waterfalls. Tagged Rotoiti trout have been landed 20 kilometres downstream.

**Winning Fish.** The winner of O'Keefes' annual winter 10 pound plus competition was Russell Hagland, a Kilwell rep from Christchurch. He landed a 6.48kg (14.5 pound) brown caught at night fly fishing off Emery's Reef, Lake Rotoiti. 'A truly beautiful fish, silver with black spots' according to Pat O'Keefe. Russell also won the competition in 1992 with a 14 pound rainbow from Okataina, his trips to Rotorua certainly proving rewarding.

**Compliance.** The 1998/99 Operational Work Plan year for ERFGC concluded with 4,878 licences checked resulting in 114 prosecutions and \$6,935 recovered in fines. Rangers have a new 'get tough' policy. If you cannot produce your licence on the spot, gear is confiscated. Weeks of frustrating work has been wasted trying to track down anglers who were given a week's grace to produce a current licence.

**Brown Trout Daily Restriction.** The new season's regulations allow for only two brown trout per day to be kept. Research has shown brown trout are slow growing and live longer than rainbows. Further research into South Island wilderness brown trout has proved that they are more intelligent than their relations. Many of us have been supplying brown trout heads to ERFGC for ageing research. The otolith bones are laboriously ground and examined.

**Trout Fly (Naho Naho).** Yes...they are back with a vengeance - windows crawling on those particular nights. I believe it is the adult of the lake blood-worm and according to the experts is a sign of improving lake water quality. There is absolutely nothing that can be done to eliminate them. There are reported to be one million blood-worms per square metre in many lake sediment margins. Their lives are brief - believed to be 12 hours before they are replaced by another hatch.

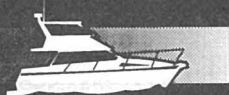
**Rotorua International Fishing Contest.** This popular contest, attracting up to 500 anglers is usually run during November but was suddenly shelved by the organisers, Rotorua North Rotary Club and as a result did not take place this year. They will continue to run the May tagged trout contest which saw 385 entries this year. The Rotorua East Lions' Club is to be the new organiser of the International event which will next take place in November 2000.

**'Let your hook always be cast.  
In the pool where you least  
expect it there will be a fish'**

**Ovid, Roman poet 43BC-17BC**

Go fishing friend!  
Soft casts and bent rods.

MV **Mere**  
LAKE ROTOITI



**"Come and enjoy the unspoilt beauty of one of nature's gems with us..."**

We would be privileged to include you in the following:

Hot Pool Cruises  
Champagne & Twilight Cruises  
Authentic Maori Marae Hangi  
Barbeques  
Trout fishing, in season, all tackle supplied  
Fishing Licenses for sale  
Alcoholic & Non Alcoholic refreshments available for purchase on board

Contact Bruce & Margaret Gee,  
15 Ngareta Rd, Lake Rotoiti, phone 07 3624448 or phone the skipper, 025 2892908



# ON-SITE EFFLUENT TREATMENT REGIONAL PLAN

The June Newsletter identified areas of concern over the implementation of the OSETRP and advised of our ongoing debate with both Rotorua District Council and Environment BOP in an attempt to vary conditions and administration of the Plan and so minimise costs.

Regretfully, our submissions have met with only partial success. We find the continuing unco-operative stance between the two Councils both disturbing and against the best interests of those property owners affected by the Plan.

RDC remains opposed to taking on any management role until the results of their ongoing research into groundwater contamination currently being carried out by NIWA in critical areas of the District has been completed (EDC April 2000). EBOP maintains that it requires to complete all initial septic tank inspections by 1 December 1999, notwithstanding the outcome of RDC tests. Any

applications for reticulation made by December 2001 will allow existing systems to be permitted if cleaned regularly.

EBOP has conceded that, where a system is deficient but not suffering from gross failure, it will be permitted to operate until December 2004 unless the property is sold prior, and providing that it is cleaned at intervals to be determined.

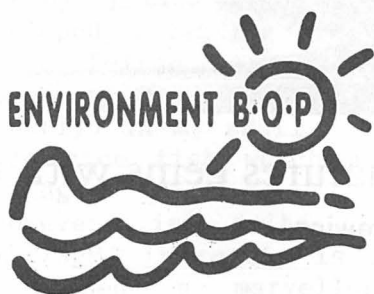
A large number of 'failures' have been due solely to tanks having less than the currently specified capacity of 2700 litres. This matter is reportedly under review. We will be pushing for greater flexibility in both tank size and the interval between cleaning for those with low occupancy rates and low water usage.

Overall, we will continue to support any measures relating to wastewater disposal which can be justified, which are fair and equitable to property owners in Rotoiti, and which can be implemented at reasonable cost.

## RURAL REFUSE - Options for Future Services

Public submissions on RDC's Options for Rural Refuse Services were heard on 9 September. Nearly 25 percent of rural property owners responded to Council's questionnaire on the issue. Most sought the retention of the weekly bag system along with some form of controlled transfer station and a need to encourage recycling in rural areas. Council has subsequently agreed to these principles.

Sites for transfer stations will now be investigated along with design, methods of use, hours of operation, cost of usage and how to restrict commercial usage. This will be done in consultation with each community. Variations such as the availability of some skip bins (locked and with chute access?) in certain locations are expected to be further addressed during this process.



**Bay of Plenty Regional Council**  
Quay Street, P O Box 364  
Whakatane, New Zealand

Telephone (07) 307 2545  
Outside Whakatane District but within  
BOP - Call free on 0800 ENV BOP  
0800 368 267  
Facsimile (07) 307 2544  
International Dialling Code (0064 7)

POLLUTION HOTLINE 0800 73 83 93

### TE NGAE PHYSIOTHERAPY CENTRE

Laurice Smith & Bill Unwin



- \* Manipulative Therapy
- \* Sports Injuries
- \* Acupuncture
- \* Feldenkrais Method

8am - 6pm 553 Te Ngae Road

Behind Owhata Medical Centre

Wheel Chair Access Off Road Parking

**Ph/Fax 07 345 6915**

# West Rotoiti Fire Force News

The AGMs for the Fire Unit (the Incorporated Society) and the Rural Fire Force were held in October. Pam Waaka stood down as Secretary and Keith Smith has taken up this role.

The unit had 42 call-outs for the year to October, our busiest year on record and one of the highest incident rates for a volunteer unit in the Rotorua District. Some were false alarms but most were associated with motor vehicle crashes, scrub fires, and general rescues. The level of activity is starting to heat up with the onset of summer. We have a new radio system in the Fire Engine, with a base unit due to be fitted in the near future. New pagers are also on order and a replacement fire engine is planned. The unit is continuing to see the benefits of a closer working relationship with the District Council and the Fire Service.

Remember to check the batteries in your smoke alarms and check the servicing requirements on fire extinguishers. Don't forget to carry an extinguisher in your car. If you haven't got smoke alarms or extinguishers, then think seriously about getting some to provide for better safety. **Smoke alarms have already saved many lives in New Zealand this year!** They can be a nuisance in a kitchen, but positioned correctly in a house, they will provide you with some of the cheapest life insurance you could ever buy. They are not expensive and batteries last for long periods. **Taking some basic safety precautions may save the lives of family and friends.**

If planning a rubbish fire, you need a permit. Within one kilometre of a DOC reserve, contact Dept of Conservation (Ph 349-8211), otherwise contact Fletcher Challenge Forests at Waiotapu (Ph 366-1000) who are responsible for the Kaingaroa Rural Fire District. All fires other than those in an enclosed incinerator, or barbeques, require a permit. Permits will not be issued if a fire ban is in place.

If you have any queries about the unit please contact:

Willie Shaw (Ph 362-4315)	Noel Ruebe (Ph 362-4814)
Ted Boucher (Ph 362-4815)	Dan Arrowsmith (Ph 362-4477)

Annual subscriptions (\$10) can be sent to our Treasurer, Judy Smith at 8 Foster Road, RD4 Rotorua. Donations are always appreciated. Have a happy and fire-safe Christmas and New Year. Remember to take particular care with boat fuel and please don't light fires when picnicking on the shores of our beautiful lakes!

**REMEMBER! DIAL 111 IN AN EMERGENCY.**

## THE LAKE WEED CONTROL SOCIETY

*Secretary*  
Mrs E M Miller  
91 Te Akau Road  
RD 4  
Rotorua

*Chairman*  
Rear Admiral E C Thorne CB CBE

The Lakeweed Society AGM will be held on Saturday 29 January 2000 (Anniversary Weekend) at Taheke Marae at 10am.

Come along and hear an expert scientist on algal blooms, and have your chance to talk with the contractor who does the lakeweed spraying.

The Lakeweed Society has been low key for a year or two, and the AGM will consider the future role of the Society.

Over many decades under L.P. Leary QC the Society researched lakeweed control, and was effective in getting a spray control programme in place.

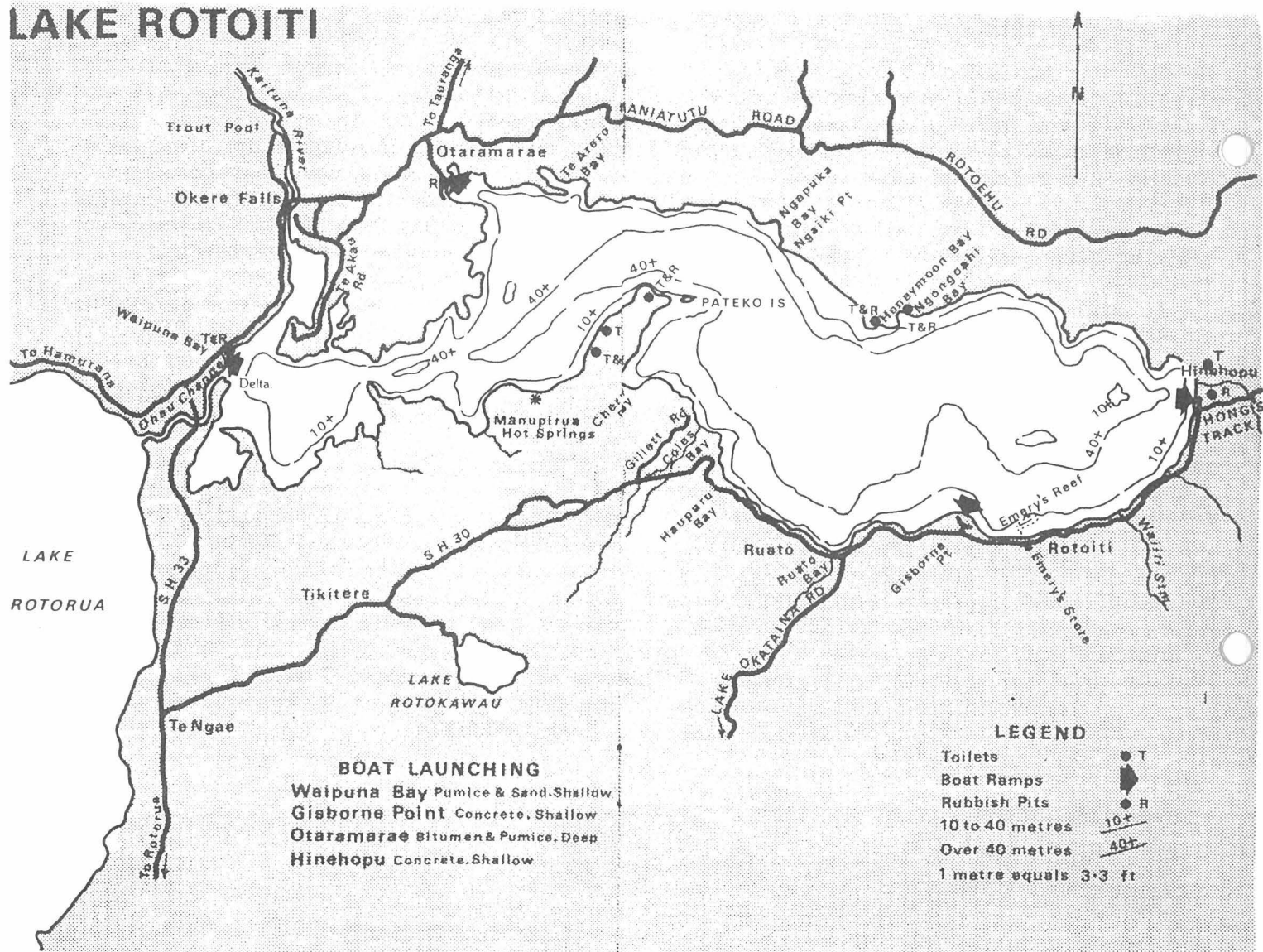
While continued lakeweed control is vital, other issues such as foam and algae are now important. The Committee will recommend to the AGM that water quality issues generally should be part of the Society's work.

In accordance with long tradition, formal business will be brief.

# 1999 COMMITTEE

<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	Jim Stanton	Okawa Bay, Mourea	Ph 362-4690
<b>DEPUTY CHAIRMAN</b>	Fred Whata	Okere Falls	Ph 362-4842
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Mary Stanton	Okawa Bay, Mourea	Ph 362-4690
<b>TREASURER</b>	Michael Gill	Okawa Bay, Mourea	Ph 362-4589
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Theo de Lange	Otaramarae	Ph 362-4342
	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
	Tai Eru Morehu	Maniatutu Road	Ph 362-4392
	Bill Unwin	Okere Road	Ph 362-4288
	Hapi Winiata	Rotoiti East	Ph 348-7783

## LAKE ROTOITI



### IMPORTANT & USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

**Fire, Police, Ambulance,**  
**Search and Rescue** 111  
**Accident and Emergency**  
**medical care centre** 348 1000  
**Urgent Pharmacy** 348 4385  
**ROTORUA HOSPITAL** 348 1199  
**Poison Information** (03) 474 7000

### USEFUL INFORMATION

Dog control - Rotorua District Council	348 4199	Police Station Te Ngae	345 3453
Environmental pollution hotline	0800 738 393	TrustPower emergency number	349 9111
Lakes Inspector Dave Pilkington	348 4199	<i>Rubbish bags are collected on Monday mornings</i>	
SPCA	349 2955		