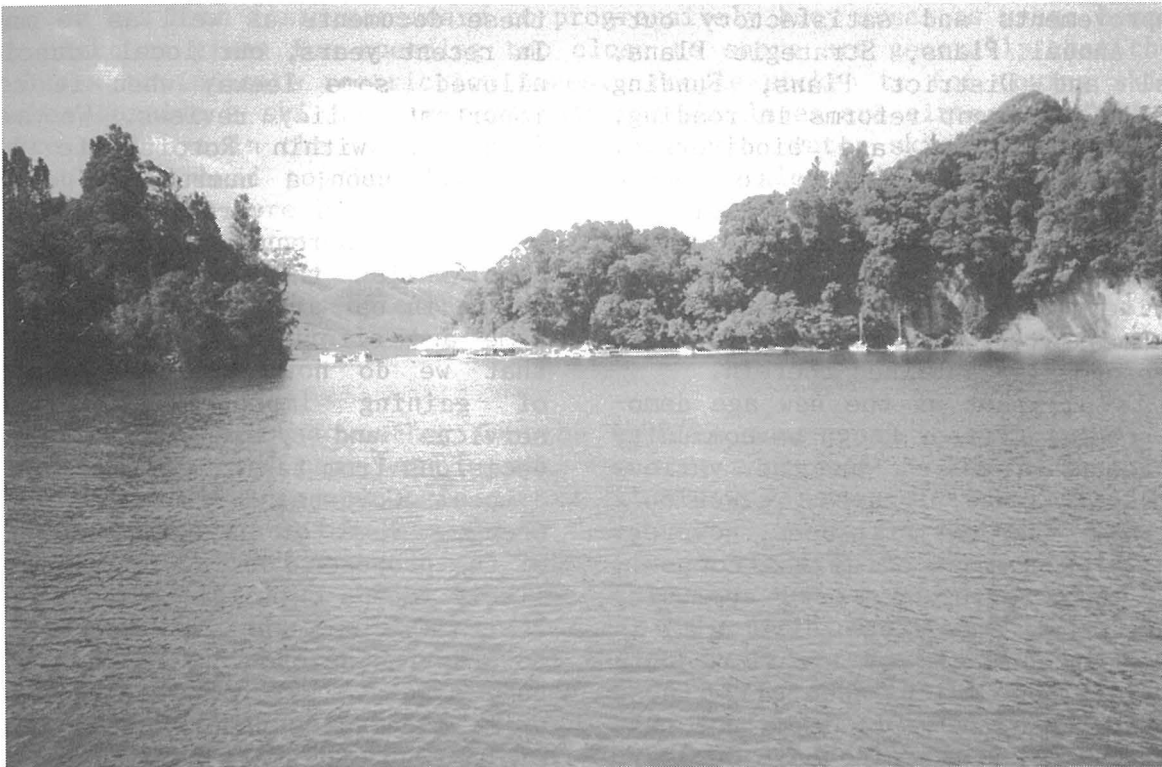




Lake Rotoiti Ratepayers & Residents Association



Te Arero Bay

Kia Ora Greetings from the Lake

Summer is past and those from other towns and cities who know the virtues of owning property around Lake Rotoiti will have returned home for the winter after taking advantage of the season just gone to derive the pleasures of living in this idyllic setting. For the rest of us, it is a time to reflect upon the flurry of activities that abound during these periods and settle down to log fires and reminisce over ever changing times. The Rotorua lakes, and Rotoiti in particular, play host to an ever increasing number of visitors each year. We surely welcome them with the reminder that these are indeed the jewels in our Crown, worthy of our strenuous efforts to enhance their well-being and protect them from exploitation and adversity.

Inevitably, we continue to be confronted with issues that are likely to have varying impacts upon our environment, our lifestyles, and our pockets. This Association endeavours to do its utmost to ensure that any changes are desirable, affordable, and have the support of the community. In so doing, we again acknowledge the tremendous backing we receive from our many advertisers and subscribers. Unity and numbers provide the best source of strength in presenting our viewpoints and gaining optimum results. If you value our efforts, we would welcome your subscription to help defray costs.

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

Not a month goes by without finding ourselves involved in issues which test our resillience and fortitude in striving for improvements and satisfactory outcomes. Annual Plans, Strategic Plans, Regional and District Plans, Funding Policies, Government reforms in roading, resource management, and biodiversity to name a few all combine to become a bewildering plethora of legislation and regulation which we, the common old garden residents and ratepayers are invited to grapple with in an effort to determine the benefits and validity of the proposals contained therein.

This is all part of the new age democratic process (better known as community consultation) required by the various Government Acts and, I guess, we wouldn't have it any other way. It does, however, put the acid on most of us who not only attempt to represent our community interests, but experience difficulty in traversing the jungle of technical data and officialese which accompany these documents. It is clearly important that we take the opportunity to have our say. In doing so, we often have to become unpaid consultants in trying to ensure that we are not unduly disadvantaged.

As a purely voluntary organisation, we often find that time constraints restrict our ability to research and respond to these documents as well as we may wish. In recent years, our local Councils have allowed some leeway when it comes to important policy reviews. We are also fortunate within Rotoiti to be able to call upon a number of people with expertise in various fields when assistance is required.

So whilst these tasks are onerous, it is in our interest to devote as much time and effort as possible to ensure that we do not sacrifice our chances of gaining improved facilities and services and preventing inappropriate decisions from taking place.

Local Government is ever undergoing change. Most of us have some knowledge of the proposed roading reforms and their likely impact on local communities. Some see this as another stepping stone towards taking over and selling off local body assets. Water and sewage are other prime candidates under threat and whilst claims of likely privatisation are studiously denied, we should not forget that the proponents of such changes remain alive and well.

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LAKE INSPECTORS REPORT *Dave Pilkington*

Buoyage

Boat operators will have noticed an increase in the number of 5 knot buoys on Rotoiti. It has been found necessary to progressively buoy areas as usage becomes greater. Excuses given for speeding too close to shore are generally that there are no buoys to indicate restriction zones. People spoken to for towing skiers off beaches outside a ski lane respond that the ski lanes are either too full, or there were no buoys in the vicinity. Experience with water skiers operating too close to shore around popular trout fishing areas along the eastern shoreline indicates a need for more buoys in these areas also. Comments from boat operators have been positive. Infringements of the 5 knot, 200 metre rule will be minimised by observance of the line of buoys following the contour of the shoreline. It will also avoid upsetting people on shore or those fishing.

Regulatory Issues

Early predictions of bad weather for the 1998/99 summer season were wrong, and a long warm summer meant that Lake Rotoiti was busy throughout. Boating behaviour overall showed an improvement on previous years. Having a paid Part-time Lakes Inspector residing at the lake has proved to be a most efficient use of resources. Rick Holden (Tikitere) has used his judgement of conditions in lake traffic to vary the time spent patrolling, thereby achieving optimum coverage over this period. Lake traffic has continued to be quite busy and to maintain the deterrent effect of having an active Inspector on the water, Council has extended Rick's employment to the end of the fishing season on 30 June 1999. It is noteworthy that he is still dealing with the type of infringements mentioned below, with a significant increase in numbers stopped for having insufficient or no lights.

Following is a summary of the total number of boats stopped on Lake Rotoiti between Boxing Day 1998 and 30 April 1999.

Boats speeding too close to shore	126
Jetskis speeding too close to shore	48
Skiing off beach not in a ski lane	28
Towing sea biscuits too close to shore	19
Towing water skiers too close to shore	17
No navigation lights	21
Bow riding	21
Dropping a water skier on the lake	7
Trolling over ski lanes whilst in use	4
Incorrect use of a ski lane	10
No observer while towing skier or sea biscuit	25
Dinghys exceeding 5 knots too close to shore	6
TOTAL	332

Navigation Beacons

The remaining 7 navigation beacons for Rotoiti are scheduled for installation before October. Waves created by curious boat owners hampered the installation of beacons already in place, so we are now planning to use times when the lake is least likely to be so busy.

MAX BRADFORD

MP ROTORUA

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Max Bradford
Max Bradford MP



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LAKE LEVELS . . .

Continued monitoring of lake levels locally suggest that they have generally been maintained well over this year. Long dry spells earlier in the year saw them linger below the target level for some time whilst the extreme rainfall event in May caused unavoidably high levels for a while. During this latter event, some believed that EBOP had not responded satisfactorily. However, the facts were that because of very high levels in the Mangorewa River which runs into the Kaituna, The Okere Gates could not be opened fully until some control further down had been achieved. It has to be realised too, that during such occurrences, the Rotorua catchment drains very quickly resulting in high inflows to Rotoiti. Whilst some flooding was again evident, thankfully the rain stopped in time for a fast recovery.

A meeting to discuss EBOP's Operation Report on lake level management was held 13 May 1999 at Te Takinga Marae. Local representatives present discussed various matters of concern and came to a general consensus that the existing target level of RL279.15m was most likely to achieve the highest level of overall satisfaction. Levels below this created problems for some boat owners in Te Akau, Whangamoa and Gisborne Point whilst higher levels caused flooding of property and septic tanks in low lying areas. This reinforced the emphasis on returning to the target level as soon as possible during and after adverse weather conditions.

Data collected from staff gauges at Hinehopu, Gisborne Point and Okawa Bay provides firm evidence that there can be some significant differences of up to 20mm or more between these and the Okere telemetering tower due to its proximity to the control gates which causes varying drawdown effects depending on gate settings. Given the importance placed on maintaining the target level, there was strong support for a monitoring station to be installed at an alternative location least likely to be affected by extraneous events (eg Otaramarae).

With regard to gate alterations, it was considered that whilst the present manual operation was for the most part satisfactory, it relied on the availability of

personnel which could not always be guaranteed. It was therefore believed that semi-automation (ie control of the gates by EBOP staff in Whakatane) was necessary to provide an appropriate level of integrity.

Both semi-automation of the gates, and installation of an alternative monitoring tower formed the basis of a verbal submission to EBOP's Draft Annual Plan.

PRIVATE JETTIES . . .

Concern has been expressed by some lake residents who own private jetties over the licensing regulations, in particular the implications of access provisions for the general public. Although these provisions have been in force for many years, modern day interpretations relating to public liability are seen as placing owners in a position of legal responsibility in the event that a member of the public has an accident whilst using the jetty. Circumstances in which private jetties can be used by the public have also come under scrutiny.

The committee has recently had these issues clarified by Rotorua District Council and Occupational Safety and Health. Firstly, existing RDC by-laws provide that, except in an emergency, or with the prior permission of the licensee, persons who tie a vessel up to, hold alongside, or in any other way obstructs the normal operation of any privately licensed structure, commit an offence. They may, however, pick up or set down passengers providing that this does not interfere with normal use by license holders.

Secondly, private jetties are considered to be covered by the Building Act and therefore, any safety requirements are made in accordance with the Act, in addition to any appropriate standards that RDC may use when re-licensing the jetties.

If any persons are authorised to access private jetties either in a work related or recreational capacity, then OSH requires the licensee to take all practical steps (which includes warning of potential hazards) to ensure that they are not harmed. Conversely, license holders have no duties towards trespassers or anyone there without permission.

Mourea Water Supply

It will have been noted that the earlier undertaking by Rotorua District Council to send out updated costings, along with a final questionnaire requesting confirmation of support, has been delayed and is now expected to occur later this month. We have some assurance that this should not unduly affect a start date early in the new financial term.

The reason for the delay is mainly due to the attempts by both ourselves and RDC to try and establish the most favourable cost benefits for property owners and residents. This has involved investigating various implications of possible extension of the proposed supply area in relation to servicing, capital costs, improved maintenance costs, and how such extensions might impact on future District planning.

We believe it important that all of these scenarios are thoroughly explored to enable our final individual decisions to be based on the fullest and most accurate detail available. We have asked that Hamurana Road and Okawa Bay again be canvassed to determine whether there has been any shift in support in these areas. Regardless of your stance, we once again urge everyone to return the questionnaires, when received, so that an exact position can be ascertained.

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ON-SITE EFFLUENT TREATMENT REGIONAL PLAN

Earlier this year, many property owners around the lake will have received a letter from Environment BOP advising them of their obligation to have septic tanks cleaned out and inspected by 1 December 1999 to comply with the conditions of the On-Site Effluent Treatment Regional Plan. The manner of the communication, lack of background explanation regarding the proposed actions, and extent of the financial imposition upon each property has drawn a critical response from many quarters. Since the advent of the letter, there has been a fair amount of media publicity, none of which has alleviated community concerns.

To go back to the beginning, the OSETRP was born in 1993 stemming primarily from requirements of the Resource Management Act. The intent of the Plan is to reduce the impact of septic tank discharge on the environment, especially the nutrient and pathogen (bacteria, viruses etc) loading on the lakes, rivers and other water bodies around the region. Once implemented, it would require all septic tank owners to undergo a regular maintenance programme including content removal and inspection of structures and drainage fields. Any systems failing to meet certain standards would require to be repaired or replaced.

A final Draft Plan was promulgated for public comment and submission in 1994 and, following further evaluation, the Plan became operative on 1 December 1996 following a hearing in the Environment Court. By this time, amendments to the Plan had, amongst other things, provided for all tanks within specified urban communities including Gisborne Point, Hinehopu, Okawa Bay and Mourea to be cleaned and inspected once every three years commencing from 1 December 1999, or become subject to a discretionary consent application to continue operation.

This Association made an initial submission endorsing the Plan in principle noting that a number of our lakeside settlements experienced problems with flooding of septic tanks due to their proximity to lake margins and adverse conditions such as high groundwater levels and impermeable soils, and for which solutions needed to be found

including the possibility of reticulation in some areas. We later attended the Environment Court hearing to express reservations over the 'three-yearly' regime, pointing out that a significant number of properties had low annual occupancy rates and may not warrant such stringent attention. We were concerned also that the Plan should provide for clear recognition of any impending reticulation schemes under investigation prior to imposing expensive upgrades upon individual home owners. In the event, the Environment Court agreed to a rider in respect of imminent reticulation, but supported Council's claim that identifying varying occupancy rates would be impractical.

Following EBOP's recent letter, we wrote to them outlining community concerns over a number of aspects and requested that they provide an opportunity for further discussion and consultation between EBOP, RDC and bona fide organisations such as ourselves. A meeting was subsequently convened in Rotorua on 23 March and attended by a sub committee of Combined Lakes Ratepayers Association (formed after it was determined that similar concerns were held by other lakes residents) and representatives of EBOP, RDC and Te Arawa Trust Board.

During discussion, it was clearly demonstrated that there were fundamental disagreements between the two Councils regarding the cost benefits of OSETRP which needed to be reconciled. From this, there was agreement by both parties to participate in further consultation with ratepayers over the various matters of concern. CLRA has since begun the process of pursuing these undertakings and will be insistent on achieving some positive outcomes.

As part of the discussion, it was noted that RDC had declined to manage the scheme on the grounds they believed that the environmental and public health benefits had not been adequately demonstrated in terms of the costs involved. On this premise, EBOP had decided to administer the Plan themselves which would require a charge of \$37.50 per property to set up their own data base.

ON-SITE EFFLUENT TREATMENT REGIONAL PLAN - cont.

The Rotorua District through its Annual and Strategic Plans has identified a necessity to assess the potential future requirement for providing sewerage systems in a number of rural and lakeside settlements. As part of this process, investigations were begun in Reporoa and Mourea last year. The cost of full reticulation for Mourea has since been found to be prohibitive and alternative proposals are being pursued. Once the best solution has been determined, it is intended that this be used as a benchmark for other communities.

Under present District Funding Policy, new sewerage scheme capital costs are to be funded 100 percent from General Rates. This reflects the wider community interest in enhancing public health and environmental integrity, particularly where there is likely to be an impact on lake water quality.

If determining that the best way to address the sewerage requirements of lakeside communities is to subject the majority of properties to the provisions of OSETRP, then the initial cost of meeting the more highly specified system designs and performance conditions necessitating pre-assessment and possible replacement of existing septic tanks and drainage fields could well be justifiably considered as a capital cost in terms of the District Funding Policy. Early indications are that as many as 60 percent of existing septic systems fall short of the new guidelines with 20 percent or more being unacceptable. The cost of full replacement is typically \$4,000 - \$7,000.

Given all of these factors, the main issues to be debated will be:

- justification of the present scheme requirements in terms of environmental and public health benefits and whether the timeframes should be extended to allow for further research to be carried out.
- if the Plan is to be implemented in its present form, then administration and management be the responsibility of Rotorua District Council who are considered to be best positioned to implement regular cleaning programmes where the cost to each individual can be spread over a number of years and minimised through the negotiation powers of tendered contracts.
- the apportionment of costs, ie those which should be considered as a charge upon general rates versus those which individual property owners should be reasonably expected to pay, and the ability of small communities to meet such costs.

Since a clean out and structural inspection of Mourea septic tanks took place last year with the cost being part of the feasibility studies into reticulating the area, EBOP have advised that further inspection is not required at this stage. It is our suggestion that all property owners within the other affected localities also delay any action pending the outcome of our further talks with both Councils.

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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The latest crime pattern in your area once again relates to thefts from boats which have been either moored or parked in a boat shed at Okere and Otaramarae. All types of fishing and boating gear have been stolen. Children were seen acting very suspiciously in a boat at Okere which suggests that they are responsible and that they are entering properties from the lake. A reminder to boat owners to secure your gear when not in use. Offenders have also been going into lakeside holiday homes. Permanent residents are requested to keep an eye out for unusual behaviour, particularly with people on boats snooping around close to the shoreline. Then call the police! If the suspects leave before we get there, which is highly likely, note which way they go.

It seems as though there has been quite a lot of cannabis available to children this year. Already, several kids have been caught with the stuff and in some cases, the parents have a lot to answer for. We know that kids also have their own suppliers. If your children are caught with drugs, expect a surprise visit to your home by us, looking for more cannabis and equipment used for drug taking.

I am surprised there are unlicensed and disqualified people still driving about taking the inevitable risk of losing their vehicle as well as being prosecuted. Perhaps vehicle seizure for 28 days is not long enough and should be doubled and so on for subsequent offending. Here are some of the more commonly breached traffic offences and penalties along with new speeding infringement fees. As you can see, speeding can be quite an expensive mistake. Slow down, spread out, keep left, buckle up, stay cool and drive carefully!

Offences	Fee \$
Removed non-operational order notice from vehicle	600
Operated vehicle which officer directed not to be operated	600
No warrant of fitness	200
Operated a vehicle not up to warrant of fitness standards	200
No current evidence of vehicle fitness - vehicle used in transport service	600
Failed to keep left of no passing lane	150
Unsafe changing of lanes	150
Speed too great to stop in length of lane visible	150
Failed to comply with red traffic signal/stop sign/give way sign etc vehicles including cycles	150
Failed to comply with directional arrows	150
Failed to produce driver licence	55
Drove without appropriate current driver licence	400
Used an unlicensed motor vehicle	200
Driver/passenger/children not wearing seat belt or restraint	150
Failed to wear cycle helmet	55
No rearward facing side lights (tail lights)	150
Drove without headlights on	150
Failed to dip headlight for other traffic	150
Using worn or damaged tyre(s)	150
Used smooth tyre(s)	150

Any speeding offence, where the speed exceeds the speed limit by:	\$
Not more than 10 kilometres an hour	30
More than 10 kilometres an hour but not more than 15 kilometres an hour	80
More than 15 kilometres an hour but not more than 20 kilometres per hour	120
More than 20 kilometres an hour but not more than 25 kilometres an hour	170
More than 25 kilometres an hour but not more than 30 kilometres an hour	230
More than 30 kilometres an hour but not more than 35 kilometres an hour	300
More than 35 kilometres an hour but not more than 40 kilometres an hour	400
More than 40 kilometres an hour but not more than 45 kilometres an hour	510
More than 45 kilometres an hour but not more than 50 kilometres an hour	630
More than 50 kilometres an hour over any speed limit = Issue Traffic Offence Notice and Notice of Roadside Suspension of Driver Licence	



Senior Constable George Anaru
Te Ngae Community Policing Centre

NEWS AND VIEWS

When is the application of the law an ass? Perhaps one answer to this question is 'when our Regional Council (Environment BOP) prosecutes our District Council (Rotorua) for commencing work at Rotorua's landfill prior to receiving final Resource Consent, resulting in a \$20,000 fine recently dished out by the Environment Court'.

The question that most will continue to ask is, why this whole sorry saga could not have been resolved between these two ratepayer funded organisations well before it became a legal issue?

EBOP maintains that there was no other way to deal with the matter because of the serious nature of the charges and that they were obliged to apply the law as it would for any other group or individual. RDC claims that it took EBOP too long to process the application. As it was seen as essential that work commence prior to the onset of winter, they decided to press ahead upon receipt of the Draft Consent conditions.

When the final Consent was received about a month later, they discovered

some 'unexpected' amendments to the conditions. In the event, sediment from the catchment run-off drained into the Tureporepo Stream during heavy rainfall in July 1998 due to required measures for the containment of earthworks not having been completed.

We wrote to EBOP earlier this year, requesting that they review the decision to prosecute since it was the ratepayers who would end up footing the bill. They advised that, whilst the action was regretted, they were not prepared to withdraw from litigation and it was up to RDC to minimise any liabilities and provide the necessary accountability.

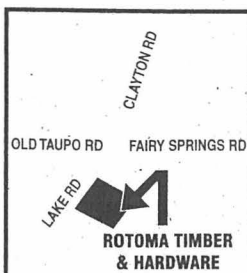
Whilst there is little doubt that RDC erred on this occasion, it seems quite ludicrous that appropriate and timely consultation did not take place to satisfactorily resolve the matter. Combined Lakes Ratepayers Association will be following this up on our behalf. It is essential that, in future, both local bodies reflect on their responsibilities and co-operate fully in the best interest of all ratepayers.

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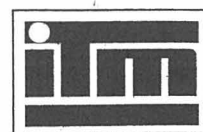
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RURAL REFUSE - Options for Future Services

Rotorua District Council is once again reviewing the way it provides rural refuse services and has prepared an 'Options Paper' which has recently been made available for public submission.

Waste management and refuse disposal is an ever increasing problem throughout the country, and anyone watching the recent TV1 Assignment programme on the subject will no doubt have gained a greater awareness of the difficulties in providing satisfactory solutions.

Here around the lakes and at Rotoiti especially, we have grappled with the issue for a number of years. Although improved facilities in the form of Transfer Stations are part of current Council policy, to date no viable alternative to the existing rural skip sites has been found. The present Report is a further attempt to address what is seen by Council as an untenable position in terms of cost, land tenure, and environmental considerations.

Currently, Council operates a weekly bag collection in Rotoiti supplemented by four skip sites to accommodate larger items of rubbish. The skips are located at Taheke Road, Mourea, Tikitere and Hinehopu. They are uncontrolled and have unrestricted access.

The Options Paper presented by Council identifies a number of deficiencies in operating these skip sites. Besides catering for the legitimate needs of local home owners, it has been apparent over the years that they are also used and abused by small commercial operators,

other Rotorua residents, and possibly out-of-District users, all of whom take advantage of the 'free' facilities. This creates difficulty in maintaining bin space, particularly during seasonal high usage periods, which in turn results in more indiscriminate dumping both at the skip sites and around the lakes generally.

Council says that it wants to provide services that adequately meet existing and future demands, whilst keeping costs to a level that the community can afford. They believe that, due to escalating costs and problems through misuse, it is necessary to establish a more controlled environment for rural refuse services.

In considering all relevant issues, Council has identified two 'realistic' options and is now seeking comment to ascertain the overall preference across the rural (lakes) communities.

Option 1 is to introduce wheelie bins for each property to replace all existing services. The bins have a capacity of about four standard rubbish bags and would cost each ratepayer \$80 per year. All skip sites would be closed.

Option 2 is to retain the current bag system, close existing skip sites and replace with two formal transfer stations which would open two afternoons per week with entry fees similar to those at the main Rotorua landfill. Council would have to find suitable land and secure long term tenure.

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RURAL REFUSE - cont.

In responding to Council's proposals, the Association would firstly concede that the existing facilities are far from ideal. We are aware of the numerous complaints of residents over their location, aesthetic values, and lack of effective maintenance. In saying so, we also acknowledge the co-operative stance of Castlecorp who generally do their utmost to keep the bins clear and are usually responsive to calls for additional assistance.

We can find little enthusiasm for wheelie bins. Quite frankly, they could not be regarded as a practical option for several reasons. Many locations are simply not suited to their operation, eg State Highways 30 and 33, both busy corridors with minimum width for refuse vehicles to stop and collect, would present too great a hazard. A number of homes are situated a distance from the property entrance and with unsealed driveways which would create a severe hindrance. Several of our District roads eg Te Akau, are very narrow with many properties accessed by steep driveways. Furthermore, such a service would be of little value to around 50 percent of owners who are not permanent residents.

We have previously given tacit approval to the idea of controlled transfer stations, but only if appropriately located, and open for the best part of the week including weekends. Operating such a facility for only two afternoons during the week would provide limited opportunities for the majority of property owners.

From our observations, it is clear that the majority of Rotoiti residents reject the options as presented. This is supported by local petitions containing several hundred signatories. Until the advent of some viable alternative, we must therefore continue to favour the status quo. However, there are obvious indicators which point towards the need for change. A collective effort to find acceptable solutions is called for.

We will be reflecting these views in our submissions to Council along with a request for further consultation in search of the best outcomes for lake residents and the District.

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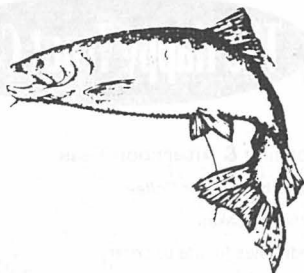
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ANGLERS' CORNER



'A river is water in its loveliest form'

The first spawning fish have been seen digging redds in the Ohau Channel. By the time this goes to print, hopefully some major runs will have come through from Lake Rotoiti. Do Lake Rotorua trout move downstream in the channel to spawn? I'm not sure if anyone has that answer. The gravel bed immediately downstream from the weir is a major spawning area as was the 'Parade' or Ngatiti (below the Ohau Channel Camp jetty) last season.

I believe that it is the hen fish that chooses the correct depth and water velocity for a redd. Often it is only the eggs of the late-spawning fish that successfully hatch. This is due to the continual re-digging of the redds. Two nights ago, I landed a lovely 2kg jack that I spotted smelting beside a flax bush. Its colour was unbelievable - so red that you would have sworn it was a different species of fish. That fish was determined to attract the females with his brilliant red gills and sides...

The fish pass (that scientifically designed contraption placed below the Takinga Street side of the Ohau Channel weir to enable smelt to traverse into Lake Rotorua) disappeared apparently during the storm event of 30 April and has yet to be located. It is presumed to have sunk further down the Channel and Environment BOP will be sending divers in as it could be a navigational hazard.

The pass worked reasonably well but is not ideal as smelt often amassed underneath instead of going over it. In the meantime, smelt on the camp side still have major problems with witnesses observing schools spending a fruitless two hours in attempting to negotiate the weir. A visiting fresh water scientist has suggested that large cemented boulders would provide a better option. This idea is to be explored in greater depth. Smelt are vitally important as

Maureen Doherty

the principle forage food of trout. You could go as far as to say - no smelt, no trout!

Brown Trout Limit. In the new 1999/2000 season, Eastern Region Fish and Game Council intend limiting the daily catch of brown trout to two fish. I believe that this is a reaction to the large number of browns taken mid-summer from the cold stream mouths of Hamurana, Waitete etc.

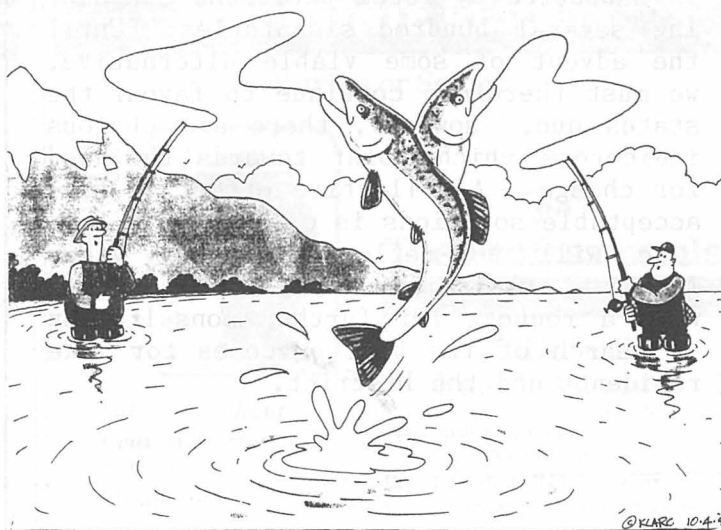
Recent scientific studies have proved what anglers long suspected - that brown trout are more intelligent than rainbow. They are more difficult to catch once they have been hooked and released, seemingly learning from their 'mistakes'. A recent wilderness study showed them refusing to eat for 3 days after hooking.

The latest fyke net survey carried out by DOC between November 1998 and February 1999 tentatively concluded that no koi carp or catfish exist in our major lakes. The eggs of both species can be transferred from unwashed boats and trailers. Nets placed overnight and checked each morning contained mostly feral goldfish and bullies, but also long-finned eels, koura, and rainbow and brown trout. Two nets 'disappeared' from Lake Rotoiti during the survey.

I have just returned from Otago and Southland where their fishing season ends 30 April. By comparison, we are very spoilt and take our numerous open winter fishing waters for granted!

Soft casts and bent rods

Weekend Opinion



Anglers Corner - Continued

What beautiful weather we have had this year. This has had a negative effect on fishing this summer. The very warm lake temperatures meant the trout went deep looking for cooler waters resulting in difficult fishing after an excellent December. Recently the frosty weather has seen the trout return to the surface providing good fishing with many large well-conditioned fish being caught all around the lake. Fly-fishing at Waititi Stream, Ruato Bay and Okere Falls jetty is producing some excellent results with trout around 4kg not uncommon.

Trolling and Harling Report

Te Rerengaotemokai Point to Te Arero Bay - this area is a real surprise package with excellent shallow trolling, especially with green, yellow or white coloured lures at all hours of the day.

Gisborne Point to Hinehopu - grand trolling and harling in this area. Best on the morning and evening rise.

Pateko Island - good fishing in this area, especially during the morning rise. Try a fly or rastafarian lure.

Ngarehu Point to Wharetata Bay - as usual this area continues to fish well with early morning harling by the strong willed producing best results.

Te Akau Point to Te Weta Bay, and Waipuna Delta - Harling in these areas on morning and evening rise is producing good fishing with most types of fly being successful.

Cooking Tip. Have you tried your freshly caught trout pan-fried? It is delicious this way. Fillet, skin, and bone trout and dry with paper towels. Heat frying pan on medium heat, add 1 tablespoon olive oil followed by 1 tablespoon butter - place trout in seasoned flour and cook for approximately 2 minutes each side with lemon juice and black pepper. Do'nt overcook. Serve with a tossed salad or fresh bread and butter - easy peasy and delicious.

Enjoy your fishing and remember, the season closes 30 June.

(Mr) **LINDSAY BRIGHOUSE J.P.**

Registered Civil Celebrant

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PARADE OF THE WOODEN BOATS

WAITANGI DAY - 6 FEBRUARY 1999

The second **Parade of the Wooden Boats** held on Waitangi Day was again a great success, 48 boats of all shapes and sizes 'strutting their stuff' in beautiful weather.

On a lovely calm morning, after the traditional 'raft up' and a Karakia from Tai Eru Morehu, the Parade, led by Commodore of the day, Morrin Cooper in 'Howick-citing', meandered in more or less dignified fashion around the Okere Arm and Okawa Bay at a speed which suited the many stately old craft. It was a most impressive sight on the way down to Big Sandy beach in Te Araro Bay.

On the beach, with great effort and more voluntary help, a large marquee had been erected. Beach marshalls, Ernie Cordwell and Dan Arrowsmith, did a great job sorting out the chaotic arrival of the Parade.

Again the organisers were amazed and impressed with the incredible effort many boat owners had put into their much loved lake boats, to smarten them up for the big day. Many of these grand old craft have been in the same family for many years. It would have been a proud moment for the original owners if they could have seen how they had been

maintained - or restored - by their later generations.

Top Rotorua boat builder, Dave Pachoud, did not find it easy as the sole judge, but was able to sort out worthy prize winners for the major categories. Every boat received a prize, thanks to much gentle arm twisting and friendly persuasion among the Rotorua business community by organiser, Gillian Marks.

The beach barbecue, organised almost single-handedly by Richard Wilson, resulted in a \$400 return to the West Rotoiti Fire Party - a great community effort. Many thanks to all who assisted.

Our **Parade of the Wooden Boats** is now firmly established as a unique part of our annual calendar, a day not only of enjoyment and boatie camaraderie, but also a real reason for owners to get out the paint pots and grease guns to keep our Rotoiti fleet up to the mark.

The organisers would like to hear any suggestions for next year's Parade. Please write to 'The Organisers, Parade of the Wooden Boats, C/- Okere Falls PDC, Rotorua.

LINDSAY BRIGHOUSE



West Rotoiti Fire Force News

The Fire Unit had a total of 42 call outs last year, our busiest year on record and one of the highest call out rates for a volunteer unit in Rotorua District. Some calls were false alarms, but most incidents were associated with motor vehicle crashes, scrub fires and general rescues. We have a new radio system fitted in the fire engine, with a base unit due to be fitted in the near future.

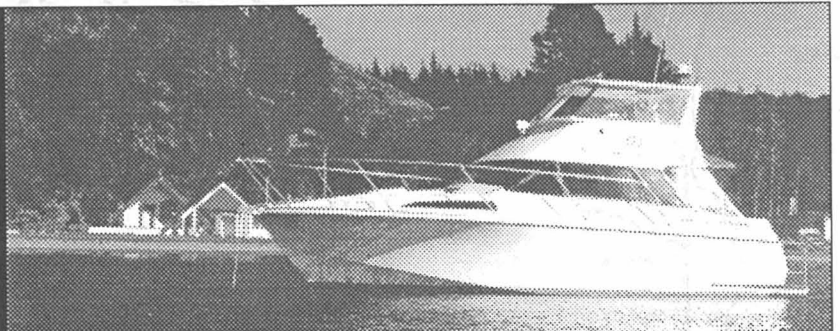
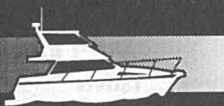
A social fishing competition is planned for Sunday 20 June with trophies for biggest fish and best condition factor. There is a section for juniors as well as adults. Entries are \$5.00 at the Okere Store or The Happy Angler Store at Mourea. Fishing stops at 1.00pm! The weigh in will be at the fire station at 2.00pm, followed by a BBQ and refreshments.

Remember to check the batteries in your smoke alarms and check the servicing requirements on fire extinguishers. If you haven't got smoke alarms or extinguishers then you should consider getting some to provide better safety. Don't forget to fit an extinguisher in your vehicle. Also, remember that chimneys need annual cleaning. **Taking some basic safety precautions may save the lives of your family or friends.**

If planning a rubbish fire, contact the **FIRE SERVICE** in Biak Street for a permit. All fires other than those in enclosed incinerators, or barbeques require a permit. Permits will not be issued if a complete fire ban is in place. If you have any queries about the Unit, please contact: Willie Shaw (362-4315), Noel Ruebe (362-4814), Ted Boucher (362-4815) or Dan Arrowsmith (362-4477). Annual subscriptions (\$10.00) can be sent to our Treasurer, Judy Smith (8 Foster Road, RD4 Rotorua). Donations are always appreciated.

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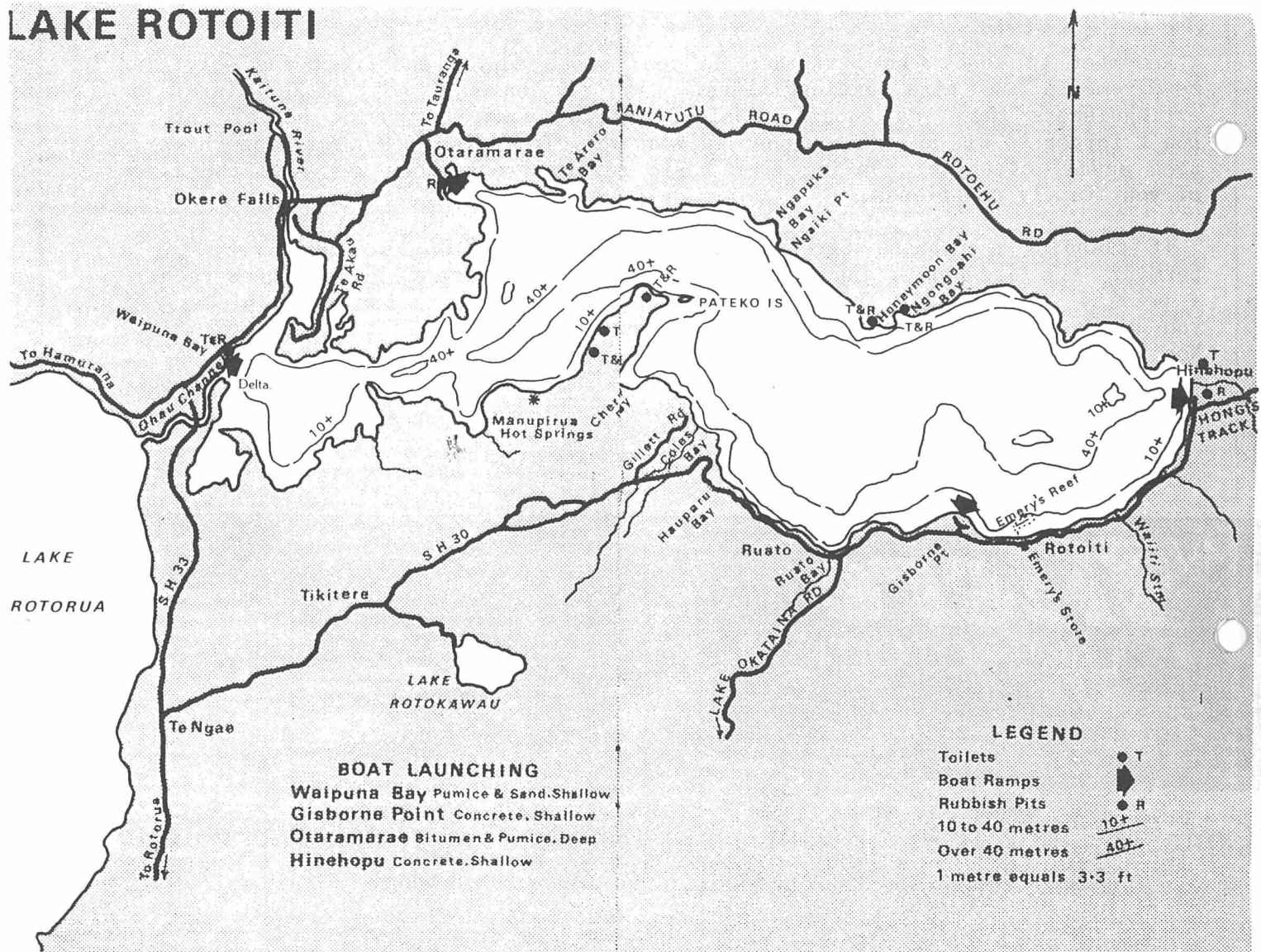
- Hot Pool Cruises
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Contact Bruce & Margaret Gee,
15 Ngareta Rd, Lake Rotoiti, phone 07 3624448 or phone the skipper, 025 2892908

1999 COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN	Jim Stanton	Okawa Bay, Mourea	Ph 362-4690
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN	Fred Whata	Okere Falls	Ph 362-4842
SECRETARY	Mary Stanton	Okawa Bay, Mourea	Ph 362-4690
TREASURER	Michael Gill	Okawa Bay, Mourea	Ph 362-4589
COMMITTEE	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		