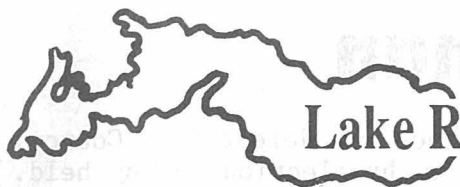
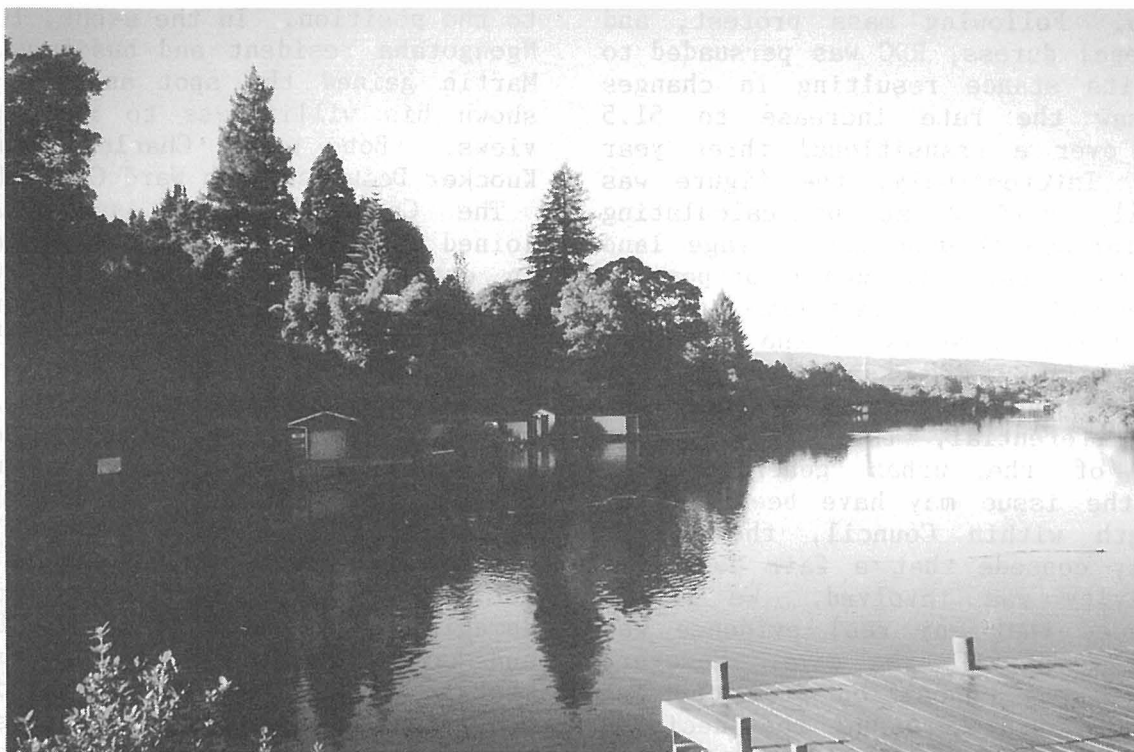


AUGUST 2000



Lake Rotoiti Ratepayers & Residents Association



Okere Falls Landing

Kia Ora

Greetings from the Lake

You will note that this issue is a little later than usual. There have been several contributing factors but primarily we decided to delay publication pending decisions by both Rotorua District Council and ourselves with regard to what we believe are unjustifiable Funding Policy resolutions which impact significantly on rural rates. The matter is discussed in more detail inside. Further reports relating to new or ongoing issues affecting the local and wider community form the subject of other topics of interest.

The committee has continued to find itself attempting to tackle innumerable proposals and changes to legislation and regulation which warrant at least some input or inquiry to make the most of any opportunities which may be necessary to advance our cause. It is perhaps notable that the ability of voluntary organisations such as ours to take full advantage of these occasions is more often compromised by the amount and sheer content of the various reports and literature being put forward. Notwithstanding, you may be assured that we expend the utmost effort in meeting these demands. We do so in the knowledge that we have considerable backing from our subscribers and support from sponsors, advertisers and others who assist in seeking appropriate and acceptable decisions for the wellbeing of the Rotoiti community and the District as a whole. Our grateful thanks to you all.

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

It is almost 10 years ago that Rotorua District Council decided arbitrarily to increase the rural differential rate from 25 percent to par with that of our urban brethren. Following mass protest, and under legal duress, RDC was persuaded to review its stance resulting in changes which saw the rate increase to 51.5 percent over a transitional three year period. Interestingly, the figure was eventually arrived at by calculating the difference between the average land values of rural and urban properties within the District at that time.

In this year's review of the Strategic Funding Policy, RDC has again made a significant decision to increase the rural differential, this time to 60 percent of the urban general rate. Whilst the issue may have been debated at length within Council, they would generally concede that a fair degree of subjectivity was involved. We remain unconvinced that any real evidence was provided to justify the move. However, despite strong opposition from our own and other rural groups, the decision was ratified. Notably, our three North Ward Councillors ultimately voted against the size of the increase.

The Combined Lakes Ratepayers Association is currently seeking advice to determine what, if any, options are available to have the decision revisited.

The basis for local body triennial elections also came up for review with increased calls (mostly from urban areas) for District wide voting to replace the present Ward system. We, along with most rural groups, argued for retention of the status quo based on the premise that the Ward system allows for greater accountability and provides for more balanced representation through its defined and proportionate mix of urban and rural voters. This view won the day although proposals to vary the four-Ward split are still up for debate.

The burden of becoming a Government MP eventually forced the resignation of Steve Chadwick as a North Ward Councillor. Steve was a very good servant of all Rotorua ratepayers and we wish her well in her new role. A move to have the next highest polling candidate from the last election, Dennis Finn, appointed

to take her place was defeated in Council resulting in a by-election being held. This attracted seven very good contestants, all of whom could have done justice to the position. In the event, long-time Ngongotaha resident and businessman, Bob Martin gained the spot and has already shown his willingness to represent our views. Bob joins Charles Sturt and Knocker Dean as North Ward Councillors.

The Combined Lakes Association has joined a number of other community groups in expressing strong concern over the ongoing police reviews which seem likely to reduce effective numbers within the Rotorua District. Of great concern is the possibility of the Te Ngae Community Policing Unit being discontinued. A letter to the Minister echoed the views of many residents who are adamant that the special needs of a premier tourist destination like Rotorua are not being met. We believe that current policy is damaging the reputation of the District and have added our demands to those who seek to ensure that we have an adequate, proper and visible police presence.

Some committee changes have been forced by the resignation of both Michael Gill and Gillian Marks due primarily to other commitments. Michael was a committee member for 9 years, the past 2 years as Treasurer and will be remembered for his meticulous research and tenacity in covering many of the issues tackled by the Association. Gillian spent the last 2 years on the committee and provided much valuable input on a variety of lake matters.

In sadder circumstances, we mourn the recent passing of Maureen Doherty. Maureen was a staunch and dedicated conservationist with a great passion for fly fishing and preservation of our trout fisheries as well as being a notable poet and story writer. We are indebted to all of them for their outstanding contribution towards the affairs of the Association and the community.

We welcome Iris Gibb, Tania Kingi and Colin Deans who have recently joined the committee. With the end of the year drawing closer, we invite others within our community to consider putting their names forward for the coming term.

ON-SITE EFFLUENT TREATMENT REGIONAL PLAN

Environment BOP has recently circulated a Draft Change No 1 to the On-Site Effluent Treatment Regional Plan (OSETRP) inviting comment by 18 August 2000. The proposed changes cover the following areas:

. **new provisions for advanced on-site effluent treatment systems and discharge of greywater** - advanced technology has produced modern design systems which may now be used where site factors cannot be overcome with conventional systems, and provided that they can be operated with no adverse effect on the environment. It will also now be possible to recycle wastewater from bathroom and laundry facilities for toilet flushing and/or garden watering as a conservation measure, the latter providing that any such discharge is 'fresh' and does not cause ponding or odours.

. **defining dwelling occupancy rates (relative to the capacity of the on-site effluent treatment system)** - the interval between inspection and certification of on-site systems can now be extended from 3 years to 6 years if:

- a) a dwelling of no more than three bedrooms has a septic tank volume greater than 2,700 litres (2,000 litres if fitted with an effluent filter) or,
- b) a dwelling of no more than six bedrooms has a septic tank volume greater than 3,300 litres (2,500 litres as above).

. **establishing a soakage field reserve area for future dwelling expansion or failure of an existing soakage field** - a 100 percent reserve area is to be established where conventional on-site effluent systems are employed (ie an area equal to that of the existing soakage field which in turn will be determined by site factors and in accordance with the System Design Manual contained within the OSETRP).

. **the use of effluent filters to protect soakage fields** - where fitted to the outlet of the septic tank, inspection intervals can be extended as outlined above.

The above changes, while generally supported in the context of the Plan, do not address the issues that are of main concern to affected ratepayers. These concerns relate firstly to the otherwise sound condition of existing systems but where the tank size does not meet current specifications, and secondly to the interval between inspections for dwellings with low occupancy and low water usage.

Moreover, the NIWA report commissioned by RDC raises further questions about the cost benefits of the inspection and maintenance programme which need to be addressed. Matters of statutory responsibility also remain unclear. We will continue to take every opportunity to seek satisfactory answers to these and other issues relating to the OSETRP.

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RURAL RATE INCREASES - ARE THEY JUSTIFIED?

The major part of our submission to Rotorua District Council's 2000/01 Draft Annual Plan was devoted to the Rating Review, and in particular, the proposal to increase the rural differential from 51.5 to 60 percent of the urban general rate. The last time such an exercise was carried out was in 1991 with Council then proposing to increase the rural rate from 25 to 100 percent of urban. We all clearly remember the reaction culminating in Council retrenching to a differential of 51.5 percent which was accepted as a reasonable, if not entirely fair, compromise given the initial intention.

RDC had earlier signalled that a rating review would be undertaken in conjunction with this year's review of the 10 year Strategic Plan and Funding Policy. We assumed, as an outcome to the debate in 1991, that ratepayer groups would be given the opportunity to discuss any proposed changes with RDC prior to formal resolutions being ratified. This turned out to be a false expectation which leaves us somewhat disillusioned to say the least.

Having scrutinised the RDC Minutes and Discussion Notes leading up to the recommendation (which formed the resume contained in the Draft Annual Plan), we found no reasonable or valid justification for changing the differential at this time. Indeed, valid argument could have been presented for a reduction rather than an increase. However, we proposed that the status quo remain. Council's decision seemed clearly to be more the result of subjective opinion than the basis of any sound statistical evidence.

We accepted that growth within the District had been greater in the residential sector, thereby justifying changes to the separate differentials between farming, commercial and rural properties overall. In addition, Council perceived 'a need to adjust the current system to achieve as far as possible the fairest outcome across the range of residential property values both in the urban and rural parts of the District.' In this regard, they were of the view 'that the rural residential properties could withstand some increase, noting that the majority of these properties

were of sufficiently close proximity to the urban area to readily access services provided by Council.'

It was evident that the main criteria used to determine the proposed changes were firstly, the effects of the 1999 property revaluations, and secondly, a change in apportionment of the debt repayment relating to the urban Wastewater Treatment Plant. Other issues considered were the relative level of growth in the urban and rural areas (including migration from farming to rural residential), and presumably (although not specifically discussed) the level of increased public services to rural areas.

Many will recall that when the 1999 property revaluations were announced, there was an immediate outcry from some quarters over the extent of the increase in a number of urban areas, particularly Western Heights and Ngongotaha. There were suggestions from Council that this would likely have a significant bearing on the impending rates review. We noted that the 1999 valuations were calculated by the 'Mass Appraisal' method, ie from historical sales data applied across the board in each area without taking into account the numerous variables relative to individual properties. We contended that this would distort many property values across the District and upset the intended social equilibrium in striking future rates.

Furthermore, we reminded Council that most lakeside properties continue to be significantly over-valued compared to other real estate within the Rotorua District, mainly due to their popularity with affluent 'out-of-town' buyers. This also had a detrimental effect on those adjacent properties which were not quite so desirably located resulting in the average rural residential increase being similar to that of urban at around 34 percent.

Moreover, the criteria finally applied in 1991 was the difference between the rural and urban average land value at that time which was 51.5 percent. The statistics presented show that since then, this differential has varied and is now 46.7 percent, providing further support to our arguments.

The other major bearing on the matter was Council's decision to amend the Funding Policy for wastewater. The capital development of new wastewater schemes, which have been subject to 100 percent funding from General rates since 1991, will now be met by specific communities of benefit to a maximum of \$5,000 per property (existing schemes for Mourea and Reporoa excluded). This would apply to any future reticulation for lakeside settlements as may be determined. To offset this, the balance of the loan for the urban Wastewater Treatment Plant, which has also been funded 100 percent from General rates since 1991, is now to be funded 70 percent from the wastewater cost centre (urban users) and 30 percent from General Rates. The effect of this for urban ratepayers is that the sewerage charge to each household increases by \$42 to \$250.

As part of our overall argument, it is a matter of fact that rural charges for the annual maintenance of both water and sewerage reticulation are or will be significantly higher than that for urban users due simply to the smaller number of contributors within each scheme.

Of the other factors considered, the figures quoted show that the impact of land migration (from farming to rural under 2 hectares) and growth relativities could not be regarded as having sufficient effect to warrant increases to the rural differential rate.

In 1991, a major factor in objections to rate increases was that rural communities benefited from few services, were a considerable distance from urban amenities, and received far less than a proportionate share of the annual budget. In the intervening years, this funding imbalance has been recognised through a greater apportionment of capital and maintenance expenditure in rural areas, mainly through the efforts of pro-active ratepayer groups.

However, we do not believe that there is any categorical evidence to suggest that the level of improvements equate to any more than a fair and reasonable share of the available resources, and can therefore not be properly considered without further assessment. Furthermore, any perception that 'the majority of rural properties are of sufficiently close proximity to readily access urban services and amenities' is surely an exaggeration. Indeed, the time and cost of travel to rural residents (especially to access employment opportunities) has to be taken into account when comparing benefits.

These arguments, supported by verbal presentations at the Draft Annual Plan Hearings, were essentially dismissed. The lack of consultation or reasonable justification for the decisions taken has led us to seek further advice in respect of obligations and procedures followed by Council in striking this latest increase to rural differential rates.

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THE LAKE WEED CONTROL SOCIETY

Secretary

Elizabeth Miller
91 Te Akau Road
RD 4 Rotorua

Chairman

Ian McLean

NO EASY TASK

Six months ago the Lakeweed Control Society AGM called for a new focus for the Society - on water quality as well as lakeweed. Our first task was to find out just what is happening with the lakes. Environment BOP, Rotorua District Council and NIWA (National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research) have been most helpful to us.

RDC has applied for a 20 year extension of their right to discharge wastewater in the Whakarewarewa forest. We have had a good look at their application and the supporting technical material. We have decided to support the application in principle.

There is no doubt that the system put in by RDC a decade or so ago has had a major effect in reducing the phosphorous and nitrogen going into Lake Rotorua and the downstream waters including the Ohau Channel and Lake Rotoiti. The effect can be seen during periods of time when the lakes are much clearer.

However, the foam and the severe algal blooms of the past few years show that there is a long way to go. The technical material reports that the sediment on the lakebed of Lake Rotorua contains much nitrogen and phosphorous which is released intermittently, and becomes available for weeds and algae to feed upon. Most of the fresh nutrients coming into Lake Rotorua come from streams and run-off, and are difficult to reduce in quantity.

So the battle to improve the water quality in these lakes will be a long one - lasting decades and beyond the lifespan of many of us.

Because of uncertainties and the way that the lakes can change so quickly (we didn't know that blue-green algae would be a problem 5 years ago) we, the Society have decided to object to the conditions proposed for the water right. We will be seeking to have the limits for discharge of nitrogen and phosphorous reviewed and amended, if appropriate, every 5 years. We also want to see monitoring of the downstream waters as well as those of Lake Rotorua.

On other issues, several documents or projects have been completed or are proposed by the statutory authorities. The 'Lakes Management Strategy', which sets out the roles of Te Arawa, EBOP and RDC, has been agreed to between those three parties and is awaiting printing. A report titled 'Rotorua Lakes Algae Report' has been completed by EBOP. This report shows that some lakes like Rotoma are little affected, whilst others such as Rotoehu have deteriorated badly.

Work is being done by EBOP, RDC and landowners in retiring the lake margins around Rotoma and Rotoehu to help protect them. EBOP plans to carry out a study of the nutrient balance in Lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti. Some of the data available is now quite stale and we look forward to a good project that will show just where the water quality in these lakes is heading at the present time. A study has been done by NIWA for RDC on the drainage from septic tanks in critical locations and its effect on the lakes.

The Society is, of course, still interested in it's ongoing function of control of lakeweed. The news is that LINZ (Land Information NZ), who are the Department responsible for funding and arranging the spraying programmes, have transferred the responsibility from Christchurch (which was remote) to Hamilton. We hope to meet with their representative soon.

Much of what is happening relates to reports and studies, and the real test is what happens on the ground (or more precisely, in the water). The Lakeweed Control Society intends to work with the statutory authorities as they carry out their responsibilities, to achieve the best water quality feasible in our lakes.

Footnote: LRRRA, in reflecting public concern over the recent spate of algal bloom outbreaks within our lakes, has also made submission to EBOP backing the Lakeweed Society in their quest for more frequent monitoring to be carried out as part of RDC's consent conditions to discharge treated wastewater from the Rotorua Wastewater Treatment Plant.

LAKE FOAM - AND ALGAL BLOOMS

A report by Environment BOP scientist, Thomas Wilding, has concluded that the build up of foam on Lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti in 1998 was almost certainly due to a new species of green algae called *Kirchneriella lunaris*. This algae was dominant in samples sent to Environmental Science and Research for analysis and the gelatinous cover of this organism was thought to be the material that was whipped into the persistent white foam.

It is believed that *K. lunaris* thrived in the extreme climatic conditions of 1997-98 and its predominance was likely to have been assisted by an apparent short-term increase of dissolved nutrient mainly from lake sediment. Whilst there have been no repeat outbreaks of similar magnitude, it is difficult to predict the likelihood of further 'foam' events.

The frequency and severity of cyanobacterial (blue-green) algal blooms in Lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti in recent years has caused considerable public concern. Okawa Bay, in particular, has been subject to prolonged public health warnings over each of the last three summers and other areas in West Rotoiti are becoming affected. Thomas Wilding says that Lake Rotorua water quality and algae composition is still experiencing a great deal of change from year to year. The prediction that it would take 10 years for the lake to settle down to a new equilibrium after the removal of the sewage effluent appears to have been conservative, especially given the amount of nutrient remaining in the sediments. Preventative measures for other lakes are clearly preferable to later restoration.

PARADE OF THE WOODEN BOATS

WAITANGI DAY - 6 FEBRUARY 2001

Preliminary planning is now underway for Lake Rotoiti's next annual Parade of the Wooden Boats on Waitangi Day 2001. After last year's major millenium effort, this next parade will be a simple picnic day with minimum organisation. The organisers now have a good data base so all previous participants will be contacted around early November.

New entrants - particularly from new

arrivals on the lakes, or boats under renovation will be most welcome.

This unique event has now become a major function on the New Zealand boating calendar. Further information is available from 'The Registrar, Wooden Boat Parade, PO Box 2008, Rotorua, or from the organisers, Brentleigh Bond (PH 362 4700) or Lindsay Brighthouse (Ph 362 4876).





/POLICE
Nga Pirihimana O Aotearoa

BLUEPRINT

Animals that wander onto public roads are a serious concern for public safety. Cows have been climbing through fences along Vaughans Road in Ngapuna and one or two horses caused an accident on Te Ngae Road recently. And I don't need to remind you of the nasty crash caused by a dog in your area. Owners should ensure their animals are secure. Dogs must not be allowed to roam freely on the roads. Farm gates must remain shut and fences must be suitable.

With the help of some people from your community, the Police have been successful with solving some burglaries. One of these has led to the recovery of other stolen property. However, I would still like to hear from any person who knows anything about a Hilux stolen from Okawa Bay recently. I also want names of people and registration numbers of the vehicles doing 'wheelies' in Takinga Street and in any other parts of your community. Let's get these idiots off our roads!

Some of the phone calls I get from the public might seem quite trivial to you such as holiday homes being left insecure and lights being left on. Another call received was about a shotgun in another home in full view of anyone snooping around. Calls of this nature as well as the ones about suspicious vehicles and burglar alarms sounding not only indicates that communication between the Police and the community is working well but people are concerned.

On the traffic side of things, the end of the re-development of Te Ngae Road looks pretty close and traffic should be moving much smoother. While you won't need a map to use it, it surprises me how many people still use roundabouts incorrectly or drive over them. I can not emphasise it enough, signalling your turns and the correct use of lanes are important. Courtesy of letting other vehicles change lanes ahead of you when they signal is just as important.

The staff restructuring issue remains a hot topic. We believe there will be a result soon and we are hoping it will not affect us too much. I apologise for not saying any more, but to do so is to speculate which is totally wrong.

Stay safe! Drive carefully! Keep those phone calls coming. Remember, we still have the 0800 TIP OFF number where you can give us anonymous information.

Senior Constable George Anaru
Te Ngae Community Policing Centre

Mobile Library Calendar

Tuesday Route 2000/2001

Fortnightly from 22 August 2000

08.50 - 09.15 Wharetoroa Drive
09.30 - 10.00 Rotoma School
10.05 - 10.25 Rotoma Store
10.30 - 10.50 Rotoiti School
11.20 - 11.45 Mourea Happy Angler Store

The Mobile Library carries a good selection of

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

Mourea Water Supply

Most affected property owners will know that the intended Mourea Water Supply failed to proceed as a result of a significant number of objections, primarily from Okawa Bay residents. This obviated an abandonment of the Special Order declaring the supply area with RDC then deciding that the cost of the proposed scheme to the remainder of the Mourea area would be too high to sustain.

However, Council acknowledged that there were still a significant number of property owners who had unsatisfactory supplies. Accordingly, they undertook to identify those property owners who were experiencing problems and then assess possible alternative supply options (probably one or more local bores with appropriate contamination safeguards). Unfortunately, this exercise has been delayed through staff shortages. We are presently seeking to get the exercise back on track as quickly as possible. Funds for this project remain earmarked within this financial year as part of the District's Strategic Plan.

DOG CONTROL

There have been several nasty incidents involving dogs on the loose within the District over the past month. An attack on a young child occurred at Okere Falls and other instances of dogs rushing at people and cars have been reported in local areas.

In a message from the District Council, we are reminded that a registered dog under control by way of a leash when in a public place is everyone's best friend. A loose dog can kill or seriously injure humans, domestic animals, livestock, or protected wildlife. The maximum penalty where a person or protected wildlife is killed or seriously injured by a dog is 3 months imprisonment or a \$5,000 fine, or both.

All dogs over the age of 3 months must be registered, the penalty for keeping an unregistered dog being an instant fine of \$200 or, if prosecuted through the Court system, a maximum fine of \$1,500.

A door-to-door check will be carried out in our area shortly to locate any unregistered animals.



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LAKE ROUNDABOUT

Ohau Channel Camp. Despite some strong opposition from long time campers, fishermen and local residents, Auckland development company, Taradale Properties, gained a Resource Consent for the re-development of the former Ohau Channel camp to permit the establishment and operation of an 80 unit residential complex for private and tourist accommodation. Strict conditions regarding effluent disposal (via a sealed tank unit and carted to town daily) and stormwater disposal amongst other things will apply. A 15 to 20 metre width esplanade strip will provide public access to both Lake Rotorua and the Ohau Channel.

Taheke Cafe. A further non-complying application for Resource Consent has recently been lodged to establish a small licenced cafe at 132 Okere Road. Submissions will have been heard by the time this goes to press. These include some 16 objections from local residents who have several concerns regarding such an establishment in this location. The Association has received no mandate to raise a specific objection.

However, we have reminded Council that the sensitive Rural E lakeside settlement zone and any consent should carry strict controls and conditions, particularly with regard to noise levels from all sources. Restricted parking and effluent disposal are other issues requiring close examination.

Okere Bus Service. After lobbying from the Association and Ngati Pikiao Rununga, we are pleased to see a new bus service, albeit limited, commenced as from 3 July 2000 from the city to Okere Falls with stops at Mourea and Parcliff Road. The bus leaves Okere at 7.40am Monday to Friday arriving in the city at 8.20am. It leaves Pukuatua Street at 3.05pm and terminates at Okere at 4.35pm.

District Re-valuations. Our protests over the methodology used for last years District re-valuation received a rather bland reply outlining requirements for cost efficiency through increased use of technology to produce valuations, but no mention of the effect of mass valuations within the various District localities.



Te Arero Bay, Lake Rotoiti

CALLING NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS!

In conversation with a lady the other day, I discovered that she was apparently the chairperson of the West Rotoiti Ratepayers and Residents Association when it was first formed around 1978. The Association (which since 1992 has become a servant of the whole of the lake) has managed to continue and grow as a strong pro-active unit over the years and today is acknowledged and respected by all of the statutory bodies with whom we deal as well as numerous other organisations. We are the largest ratepayer group in Rotorua, with over 400 financial memberships (each representing individual lake properties). Many people over the years have served on the committee as voluntary contributors in the quest to ensure that the interests and opinions of our local communities are heard by those who wield political power.

It goes without saying that, notwithstanding strong membership support, without such volunteers to serve on the committee, little would be achieved. It is of some concern that in recent years few new faces have come forward. With several key committee members having retired this year, and other long term members perhaps also thinking of taking a break, it is timely to make a plea to anyone who could find the time and has the inclination to offer their services at the next AGM in January. Please give it your earnest consideration. Your Association needs you!

LAKE LEVELS

According to Environment BOP, Lake Rotoiti levels between 1 January 2000 and 1 June 2000 exceeded the target range (279.150mr \pm 0.075mr Moturiki Datum) on two days only with the maximum level of 279.245mr reached on 1 June. Information received from our local monitor, Michael Gill, suggests that for the most part, the levels have been maintained satisfactorily with good response by EBOP in changing gate settings.

It is interesting to note that, as a result of 'extensive investigations' by EBOP the datum of the Okere water level recorder was adjusted by 15mm from 19 March 2000. We have strongly believed that readings taken from the Okere Tower have been out of kilter with other readings around the lake, thereby contributing to frequent inaccurate assessments when determining levels at Whakatane.

Last year, EBOP resolved to make funding available for installation of semi-automatic gates to control the Okere outlet. This has yet to be implemented. As part of our submissions to this year's Draft Annual Plan, we have requested that EBOP provide updated status on this undertaking in the expectation that the gates would be installed within the current financial period.



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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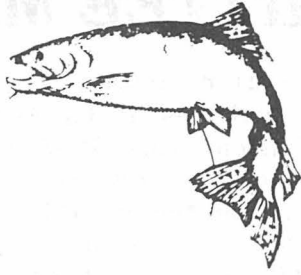
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ANGLERS' CORNER



It may seem strange that this fishing report be written by the second worst fisherman on the lake. At least that is what my so-called friends call me. They kindly add that they are still looking for the worst one!

It is difficult though, what with reading the morning paper or a good book, listening to some great jazz tapes, baking a batch of scones in the boat oven or enjoying a few social drinks - often the 'scream of the reel' can be just a darned nuisance. Perhaps if we did pay more attention to the lines out the back we would do better, but is that really what it's all about?

But even so, in the meanderings of 'Shady Lady' around our beautiful lake this millenium fishing season, we did glean some advice from the many hundreds of experts on 'fishing Rotoiti'.

Trolling - a slow start in October but got going in November. Hauparu, Patiko Island, Haines Corner, and the skids all produced good fish. The Delta picked up in December. Quiet end to the season, but the second to last weekend saw a remarkable 'hot patch' with one contest boating 240 trout in total. One regular angler, after little luck for two weeks, pulled in five fish in three hours.

These 'hot patches' are hard to understand. When the whole lake switches on for half a day, the trout strike at anything - everyone catches fish - and then it all stops just as quickly. You just have to be out there at the right time.

Old reliable Black Toby was the most consistent lure with Green and Gold just behind. Purple Clown, Dark Red, and Traffic Light came on towards season end.

Fly Fishing - Hauparu, the Pipe, and Trout Pools were consistent. The Delta was slow but with better quality fish now coming from Lake Rotorua, it was worth a try. Any fly with a gold flash seemed best. Noticed a lot of boats nymphing over the Delta outlet in April-

Lindsay Brighthouse

May, apparently with some success.

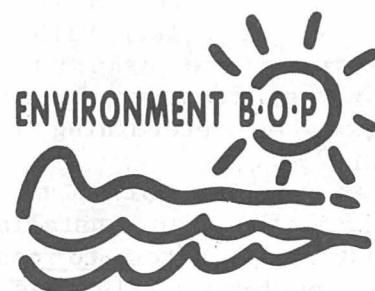
Jigging - On again, off again from Honeymoon Bay down the cliffs - some big fish caught January/February in the deep spots. Grim Reaper, Green and Gold, or Bright Silver were far and away the most successful lures. These are made locally - forget about the flash imported stuff!

The approval now to use lead lines on our lake did not seem to make much difference. Shallow trolling and harling still worked well and it's much more fun.

The opening and closing weeks produced the usual crazy rush. The question is still being asked as to why Rotoiti is closed at all for trolling. If the lake was kept open, these frantic plunderings would be eliminated. Fishing would be spread out over the winter months and would result in the same number of lines in the water anyway. And it still seems grossly unfair to boaties that fly fishing is still permitted in various locations on the lake year round. These questions are often asked. Many locals don't think that they have ever been properly answered.

Of course, really accurate statistics on this millenium season are not possible but it seems that Rotoiti once again produced the most trophy (10 pound plus) fish. Tarawera - eat your heart out! Rotoiti may be a hard lake to fish, but when you catch one it is well worth it.

Tight Lines.



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JETTIES - PROPOSALS AND POLICIES

Jetties have become a keen topic of discussion in recent times with changes to Council policy. It should be noted that all applications for jetties require a resource consent from RDC under the terms of the proposed District Plan and the Resource Management Act. Any application which has all consents from affected parties (including Statutory bodies) will be dealt with as a non-notified application. However, where all consents are not given, applications must be notified. Under new policy, these will now be heard by an independent Hearings Commissioner to avert perceived conflict of interest. This applies to all applications whether they be from private property or public reserves.

A case in question has been the proposed upgrade of the existing earthen jetty off the Okere Road Reserve by local residents in the area who have been using the jetty for about 25 years. The large majority of affected parties raised no specific objections and the residents agreed to fund the new jetty which was intended to replace the existing dilapidated structure and enhance the beach area used for swimming and recreation. Of particular concern was the rare dabchick population inhabiting the area. However, environmental reports considered that detrimental effects would be unlikely. The initial stages were protracted through Council's reluctance to support the application. After several lengthy delays, recommendation for a (shortened) 25 metre jetty was finally approved by a Hearings Commissioner.

The scheduled upgrade of the Okere Falls landing jetty commenced just prior to last Christmas. As many will know, the initial work carried out by RDC's contractors left much to be desired and caused some harsh criticism from local residents. Unfortunately, there had been no prior consultation on design aspects which eventuated in a number of shortcomings being exposed upon completion. RDC later conceded that better communication could have avoided the unpleasant aftermath and agreed to undertake further work to resolve areas of concern. This has now been completed excepting for the lengthening of the jetty which is awaiting Resource Consent approval.

The proposed Class 2 boatramp/jetty on Lake Rotorua at Mourea has been deferred due to the Pukaretu Trust, who had originally agreed to negotiate public easement through the land occupied by Píkiao Rugby League Club, declining the proposal. Any further progress will be dependent on whether the Trust can be persuaded to review its decision.

RDC's charging regime for private jetties and wharves is causing concern from residents who have structures which exceed a (nominal) 15 square metres and which are now subject to a differential annual licence fee based on the extent of the excess area. The Association will consider taking up the issue which is believed to have evolved through the gradual proliferation of unauthorised extensions to existing structures.

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RURAL REFUSE

Following submissions made in September last year, Rotorua District Council decided to proceed with investigations into the establishment of three rural refuse transfer stations in West Rotoiti, Rotoma and Tarawera. These would replace all existing skip sites within the rural area. Since then, successful negotiation with the landowners of the Rotoiti No 1 Block has resulted in a site being made available at the end of Okere Road. A further site at Rotoma is still under negotiation.

The site at Okere is outlined on the map below. Resource consent applications are currently being worked through. An important part of the process will be consultation with Ratepayer Associations. We have requested on-site discussions with RDC and Sigma Consultants who are to manage the contract. It is proposed that these take place on a Sunday morning which is believed to provide the best opportunity for local residents to be in attendance. The time and date will be notified through local media and shop notices.

The proposed site is deemed to meet the ideal of being a reasonable distance away from existing dwellings. However, of principle concern will be access routes. It should be remembered that this transfer station is designed to serve all current skip site areas including Mourea, Okere and Otaramarae. Ideally, access from SH33 would be from the Okere Road intersection to avoid users taking the Taheke Road option which would be less desirable in terms of traffic volumes and safety through a residential area, as well as prospects of litter falling from insecure loads. But the turn into Okere Road is quite hazardous to say the least and would need to be significantly upgraded to accommodate safety requirements.

Given the limited hours of operation at existing transfer stations in Mamaku and Reporoa, this will be the other major topic of discussion. Sufficient opening hours during the week, and particularly at weekends will be necessary to ensure any successful community co-operation. Cost will be an important factor also but is an area which will be more difficult to find compromises.

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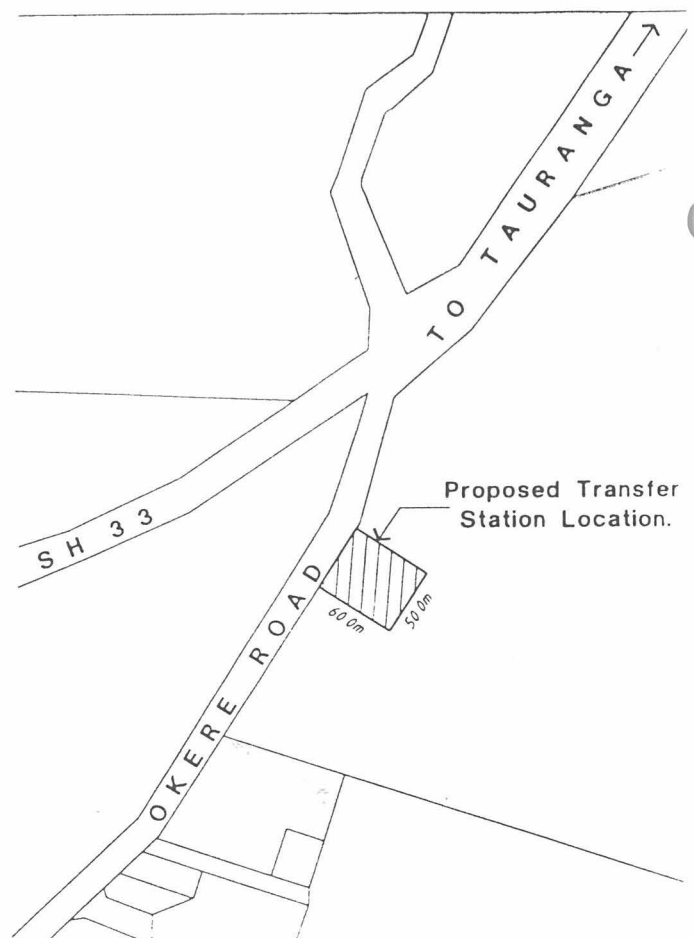


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West Rotoiti Fire Force News

The Annual General Meetings for the Fire Unit (the Incorporated Society) and the Rural Fire Force will be held concurrently in October at the Fire Station on the corner of Okere and Te Akau Roads. The exact date is yet to be set. All are welcome though only financial members of the Incorporated Society, or call out personnel are eligible to vote. A BBQ and social gathering will be held following the meeting.

The Unit has attended 17 incidents in the new millenium - 7 motor vehicle accidents, 3 scrub fires, 2 structure fires and 5 general rubbish fires. Training is held at the Fire Station every second Tuesday night at 6.30pm. We are using an old car body for rescue training which is why there is an old wreck parked in our yard. Call in if you are interested to find out more about what the Unit does. We now also have a qualified nurse providing first aid back-up for injury accidents.

The Unit is continuing to see the benefits of a closer working relationship with the District Council and the Fire Service. This has recently produced quite a lot of new equipment including traffic control strobe wands, safety cones, safety jackets, rescue line, and communications.

Remember to check the batteries in your smoke alarms and also check the servicing requirements on fire extinguishers. **Smoke alarms have already saved many lives in New Zealand this year. Taking some basic safety precautions may save the lives of your family or friends.**

If you are planning a rubbish fire, you need a permit. Within one kilometre of a DOC Reserve, contact the Department of Conservation in Scott Street (Ph 349 8211), otherwise contact Fletcher Challenge Forests at Waiotapu (Ph 366 1000) as they are responsible for the Kaingaroa Rural Fire District which includes Rotoiti.

If you have any queries about the Unit, please contact Willie Shaw (362 4315), Ted Boucher (362 4815), Dan Arrowsmith (362 4477) or Keith Smith (362 4178). Annual subscriptions (\$10) can be sent to our Treasurer, Judy Smith (8 Foster Road, RD4 Rotorua). Donations are always appreciated. **REMEMBER TO DIAL 111 IN AN EMERGENCY!**

OBITUARY - DOROTHY LOVELACE LEARY

One of Rotoiti's best known identities, Lovelace Leary, sadly passed away earlier this month. Born at Auckland in 1912, Lovelace grew up in Remuera, being educated at the Diocesan School for Girls and later at Auckland University from which she graduated with a BA. She later lived at Massey, West Auckland with her late husband Leonard. They bought their Rotoiti property at Whangamoia in 1936, retiring there in 1974. Lovelace cherished her gardening, reading, music and the Church. Her garden was a real credit to her, boasting magnificent camelias, roses and magnolias. She will be well remembered in her garden with pearls and gloves on and not a hair out of place.

Lovelace had tremendous faith and for many years played the organ at St Mary's Church in Mourea. Her services to the Anglican church were recognised by the award of the Order for Meritorious Service (OMS). Lovelace loved all people and used to bake cakes and goodies and deliver them around the area to anyone who was sick, down or in need of comfort, especially on Christmas eve. Parties on the Leary lawn were legendary. Lovelace was always involved in community affairs before declining health confined her activities. She was a wonderful person who will be missed by everyone who knew her. Lovelace was laid to rest alongside her husband Leonard in the beautiful urupa overlooking Houmaitawhiti at Otaramarae.

Richard Wilson

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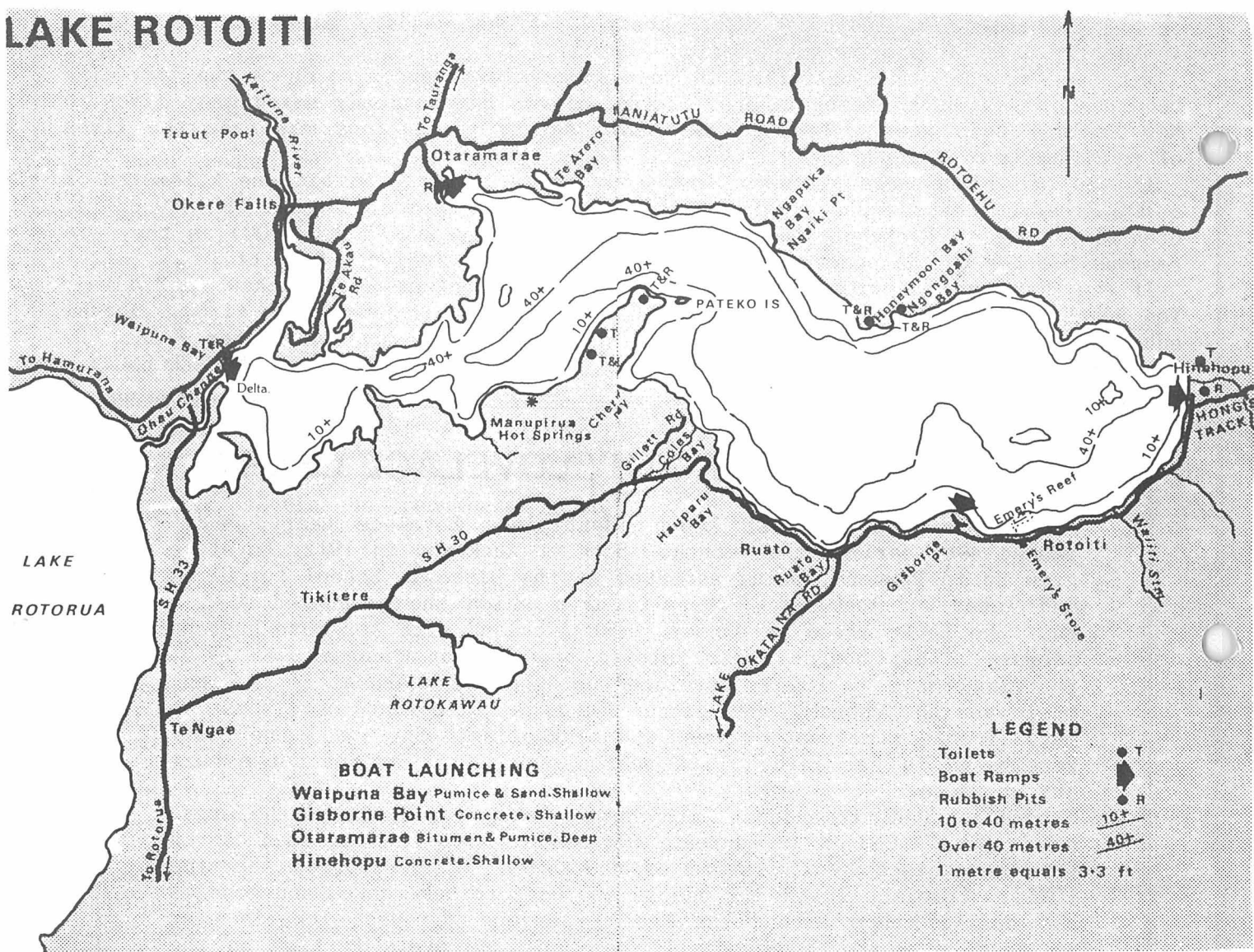
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Urgent Pharmacy 348 4385
ROTORUA HOSPITAL 348 1199
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USEFUL INFORMATION

Dog control - Rotorua	Police Station Te Ngae
District Council 348 4199	345 3453
Environmental pollution hotline 0800 738 393	TrustPower emergency number 0800 499 699
Lakes Inspector Dave Pilkington 348 4199	<i>Rubbish bags are collected on Monday mornings</i>
SPCA 349 2955	