

MAY 2002



Lake Rotoiti Ratepayers & Residents Association



Gisborne Point - Circa 1954

Kia Ora

**Greetings
from the
Lake**

In continuing publication of this Newsletter, we once again attempt to provide or highlight information which is of significance and importance to all who own property or reside within the Lake Rotoiti catchment. We do our very best to meet the prime objectives of ensuring opportunities for residents and ratepayers to discuss matters of common interest, representing majority or consensus views to the relevant authorities, and making all possible effort to conserve the natural features and environment of our lake.

We are encouraged by the level of support we receive with annual subscribers (each representing an individual property) running at between 300-400 over the past several years. As we have noted previously, unity and numbers provide the best source of strength in presenting viewpoints and gaining optimum results. Subscriptions are seen as a positive indicator of the amount of support and interest within an organisation like ours. Committee members invariably work on a voluntary basis and meet regularly to discuss and debate current and ongoing issues. Whilst we are aware that some question the value of our efforts, may we assure you that many positives, however small, have accrued from the not inconsiderable work undertaken by this Association over the years. Your support is paramount to our continued success rate.

Chairman:
Jim Stanton
Tel: 362 4690

Secretary:
Richard Wilson
Tel: 362 4308

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

Fax: 362 4690

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - DECEMBER 2001

2002 is shaping up as being a year of optimism. Rotorua District Council's Draft Annual Plan has recently emerged identifying specific funding over the next two years to address wastewater requirements at Mourea/Okawa Bay. This includes investigation into solutions to help recirculate trapped water within Okawa Bay itself. Further monies have been budgeted in 2003 to commence work on studies at Hinehopu to determine how best to deal with septic tank leakage mainly along Tamatea Street.

We recently presented submissions to Environment BOP's On-Site Effluent Treatment Plan Change outlining ongoing concerns over rules for lakeside settlements and actual administration. We support RDC's belief that further study of some targeted areas is needed to ensure that selected management options are the most appropriate for the site. Notwithstanding, it remains desirable that RDC take over the regulated scheme which manages septic tanks to optimise costs to ratepayers.

On a cautionary note, EBOP's Regional Water and Land Plan, which is at the submission stage, proposes to put in place rules that control and restrict land use around Rotoiti where changes to property lifestyles are deemed to increase nutrient loading which may impact on the lake environment. Whilst most will support these ideals in principle, there is again a need to ensure that such rules do not unfairly compromise property owners who seek to enact acceptable and beneficial change.

At long last a decision has been made by RDC to purchase a new boat for the Lakes Inspectorate designed to accommodate both regulatory and maintenance work. This after almost 4 years lobbying and debate from the time of our initial submissions which decried the inadequacies of the present craft. A great pity Dave Pilkington is no longer with us to enjoy the outcome he so deserved. Dave suffered a fatal heart seizure during an incident with a lake user at Okataina just prior to Christmas resulting in a manslaughter charge being laid. He was well respected by many of our lakes fraternity and will be sadly missed.

It is noted from recent reports that all three participating bodies in the Lakes Management Strategy have confirmed their endorsement of the Co-Management Report which will now be notified for public submission. We have continued to lobby RDC and EBOP in the hope that more expeditious progress will be made in bringing this strategy to fruition.

RDC's appeal against conditions set for the operation of the Okere Road Refuse Transfer Station have now been settled out of court and construction is under way. Further consultation with the community is expected following completion. The West Rotoiti Fire Unit is also on the move to the same site to alleviate ongoing flooding problems. The new fire engine is now in use following its recent commissioning.

EBOP have recently promulgated a Special Order to change the way in which the Kaituna Catchment scheme is rated. The intent will see Rotorua and Rotoiti ratepayers paying for part of the Lower as well as the Upper scheme which they already fund. We, along with many other Rotorua residents are unhappy with the proposal and requested a deferment pending further consultation and debate.

It is Draft Annual Plan time for local authorities and we have devoted space within this Newsletter to detail our submissions. We have already responded to EBOP's Plan. The RDC Plan is now out and submissions close 27 May 2002. Major capital funding has been included to implement the Mourea/Okawa Bay sewerage scheme (\$3.1 million) which we strongly support, along with \$4.5 million for the Airport capital restructuring proposal to which we seek further detail before making comment. The combined effect of these projects is to help push the overall rate increase to an average 5.3 percent.

Individual submissions from local residents are strongly encouraged to lend weight to any of our requests. In addition, we are always ready to support any other issues or initiatives providing they are objective and have sufficient backing from the community.

JIM STANTON

MEMBERSHIP, SUBSCRIPTIONS and NEWSLETTERS

We have been publishing Newsletters at least twice a year since around 1991. Prior to this, reports of Association activities were found regularly in the West Rotoiti News until its demise in 1988. In recent years we have enlarged Newsletters to keep residents better informed regarding the issues and policy affecting our communities. It is our desire to keep everyone up to date with events as often as possible. Regretfully the voluntary nature of the Association and the large mailing list precludes more regular publication.

Our mailing list covers all of those properties bordering Lake Rotoiti where addresses are known. As can be imagined, it is a difficult task keeping up with new ownership. We encourage anyone who is aware of new owners to invite them to notify us of their interest.

Financial membership has varied over the years but has been maintained at a healthy 300-400 in recent times. With about 1,000 ratepaying properties around the lake, and each membership representing a single property, this denotes a significant level of support.

Subscriptions have remained at a minimal \$10 per resident family for over a decade. Whilst we incur considerable cost in producing and distributing newsletters, membership numbers along with a limited amount of advertising sponsorship have provided adequate income.

We always welcome more subscribers. Financial membership is a yardstick which Councils and others use to judge our level of representation. Strong membership is essential in presenting our viewpoints and gaining optimum results. We receive a number of letters from members expressing appreciation of the committee's efforts and are very grateful for this type of feedback.

We have recently set up an Email address (lakerotoiti@hotline.com) which may provide an opportunity to impart news more often for those who have access. It will also allow messages to be readily sent to the Association.

It is reiterated that we work for the benefit of all within the lake area. In doing so, we welcome the support of both existing and new subscribers.

HONORARY LAKE INSPECTORS FOR ROTOITI

Rick Holden
Gisborne Point
Ph 362 7676

Ronald Sutherland
Te Akau Road
Ph 362 4633

Roger Thomas
Hinehopu
Ph 362 7288

Alan Thompson
488 SH33
Te Puke

ROTOITI LAKE CRUISES

M.V. HINEKURA



Your hosts, Ted & Gael Boucher
Operating from Okawa Bay Lake Resort

- * **Fishing (our speciality)**
- * **Scenic Charters**
- * **Barbecues**
- * **Picnics**
- * **Hot Pool Bathing and Evening Trips**

*Departs Okawa Bay Resort
and other sites by arrangement*

Business Phone (07) 362 4599 Home Phone (07) 362 4815

c/- P.O. OKERE FALLS, ROTORUA, N.Z.

RDC - DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2002/03

For the information of our members and residents, following is part of our proposed submission to Rotorua District Council's 2002 Draft Annual Plan. Note that we have insufficient detail at time of publication to enable scrutiny and comment in regard to the \$4.5 million budgeted for the Airport capital restructuring and the additional effect this will have on rate increases.

a. MOUREA/OKAWA BAY SEWERAGE SCHEME. As you are aware, we have always supported a reticulated scheme for this area in principle. Following the 1996/97 cost blowout, we accepted that it was necessary to review the options to determine the best course of action within an affordable budget, ie to both the District and individual property owners. More recent events which have seen the proliferation of algal blooms and significant decline in water quality in Okawa Bay have prompted the demand by many residents for urgent decisions to reticulate the area.

Whilst there have remained doubts as to the value of implementing such a scheme, either fully or partially, it now seems equally clear to many, on the weight of evidence, that the first step towards any recovery of the Bay is to eliminate nutrients from septic waste disposal which have now been calculated to contribute about 67 percent of all nitrogen input. The second or parallel step would involve dealing with the problems associated with circulation and sediments. It is acknowledged that any recovery could take many years or decades. However, there is sufficient expert opinion to support both steps being necessary for the arrest and long term rehabilitation of this water body. In view of this, we must agree with those who believe that reticulation is a priority. And, given the overall results of research to date, it must make sense to encompass the majority if not whole of Mourea/Okawa Bay to achieve any long term objective. But, such a scheme must remain affordable, in terms of both initial and ongoing costs.

We realise that there is concern over the likely capital costs, especially in the context of the relatively small area of water which would derive a direct benefit, and the impact on District ratepayers. Nonetheless, there is increasing alarm over the deteriorating water quality in the whole of the western arm of Rotoiti and this should be carefully noted in reflecting a strategic priority of the District's residents to maintain and enhance the quality of our waterways.

It is understood that Council has accepted in principle our recent request to review the funding policy for wastewater in terms of equalising the operational costs across the District. Indications have been that these changes would form part of this Annual Plan but they seem to have been omitted. It is noted also from recommendations that there may be a trade off towards seeking a capital contribution from individual property owners in Mourea/Okawa Bay as part of such changes. Whilst this might be seen as justifiable, it will be recalled that the urban scheme capital cost shortfall was funded by a loan serviced across the whole District (until very recently), and indeed as far as is known, 30 percent of it still is. Increases to urban operational costs in 2000/01 reflected amendments to the funding policy at that time which in part transferred 70 percent of the outstanding loan amount to direct user pays. If operational costs are equalised across the District, then all scheme users, including those in Mourea/ Okawa Bay, and those in any subsequent new schemes, would also be once again contributing equally to the outstanding urban loan. This proposed trade off clearly needs further appraisal prior to making any such provision.

In summary, we support a fully reticulated sewerage scheme for Mourea/ Okawa Bay in the interests of public health and environmental integrity, and which is affordable to all users. Accordingly, we endorse Council's projected budget of \$3.1 million over the next two years for this purpose, and seek appropriate changes to the Funding Policy which should be included in this Annual Plan.

b. **SEPTIC TANK DISCHARGE - HINEHOPU.** As part of the recent research undertaken by NIWA on behalf of RDC, it has apparently been determined that septic tank effluent diversion needs to be undertaken from properties along Tamatea Street, Hinehopu with a recommendation that such action be afforded priority behind Mourea/Okawa Bay. The Association supports all efforts to protect our lakewaters from excessive nutrient loading where sufficient evidence is produced to justify mitigation measures. Some inquiry may be necessary to establish the long term intention for leasehold properties in Tamatea Street prior to any commitment being made. **We therefore endorse in principle the allocation of \$70,000 in 2003 to commence initial investigations on the provision that early consultation be undertaken with the landowners and local community to establish continuity of land use.**

c. **GISBORNE POINT FOOTPATH.** Efforts to have a footpath constructed along SH30 between Wharetoroa Drive and Emery's Store have been ongoing for the past 12 years. Last year, Council undertook to revisit the request with a view to alleviating the problem. Recently, Council Engineers have met with resident representatives and have supported a proposal to implement a non-sealed footpath/walkway similar to that designed for Spencer Road, Tarawera. There has been numerous background correspondence to Council over the years which provides evidence and justification for the request. Essentially, and despite the usual lack of 'statistics', this centres around the necessity to provide a usable safe walkway for residents and visitors especially those escorting young children, and children going to school. It should also recognise the ever increasing heavy traffic count to and from the Eastern Bay of Plenty, and the erosion of berm width in the area. **We seek formal support for this proposal and the early inclusion of sufficient funding within the budget to meet the cost of implementation.**

d. **RURAL REFUSE TRANSFER STATIONS - ROTOITI.** We are currently awaiting construction of the Transfer Station in Okere Road and note that a facility for East Rotoiti is under consideration. As indicated at our last Annual General Meeting, residents are firmly of the opinion that these facilities must be open at most times to provide the level of service expected, recognising also that Rotoiti has a relatively high proportion of absentee owners who invariably arrive and depart at weekends. **It is therefore requested that sufficient funding be allocated and available to ensure that these expectations can be met.**

e. **MOUREA WATER SUPPLY.** Whilst the latest Council deliberations on this issue are acknowledged, it is a matter of concern that there remain a significant number of properties within Mourea that are without a satisfactory water supply, most of which are in those areas identified as having no acceptable source from within the zone. **As the options proffered are still under evaluation by the community, we wish to ensure that sufficient funds remain available to cover the projected costs outlined in the Council reports which would be required to meet any capital subsidy when a decision is able to be reached.**

f. **FUNDING FOR MAINTENANCE OF URUPA.** We again bring this matter to your attention in support of local hapu who have sought assistance in the maintenance of urupa within their rohe. Following last year's submissions you advised that the issue would be investigated but we are unaware of any further follow-up. It is noted that funding assistance has been made available for Marae entrance ways. Perhaps urupa access, which would likely consist of reshaping and metalling, could be included as part of this budget with a modest upward adjustment. **We request that you again give consideration to providing a level of funding relief for the upgrade and maintenance of access to local urupa where appropriate.**

SUBMISSIONS TO ENVIRONMENT BOP

DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2002/03

a. Environment Enhancement Fund. We fully support the concept of the Environment Enhancement Fund. EBOP is to be congratulated for continuing to provide such a tangible benefit to the Region's residents and ratepayers. This year, we will be urging the Rotorua District Council to seek further funding assistance in respect of water quality restoration projects in Lake Rotoiti, particularly in respect of Okawa Bay which is now acknowledged as being critically degraded and requiring urgent rehabilitation. Aside from any scheme designed to arrest nutrient influents from septic tanks, there is a need to address the poor water circulation and distribution within the Bay. It is here that the criteria of the Enhancement Fund is seen to apply and we strongly request that priority consideration be given to any application for assistance in implementing a viable 'refreshment' scheme.

Furthermore, we acknowledge that the level of funding presently allocated is significant. Notwithstanding, given the more recent emphasis and pressure towards overall maintenance and enhancement of the Region's environment, and the inability of local communities to sustain the level of financial contribution required, it is pertinent to suggest that further expansion of the Enhancement Fund would be a positive utilisation of available resources for the benefit of most Regional inhabitants and visitors. We request that you give serious thought to increasing the Fund accordingly.

b. Navigation and Safety - Rotorua Lakes. We support EBOP's intention to fully fund the functions of navigation and safety on Rotorua's lakes. We also endorse the contracting out of this work to Rotorua District Council in maintaining the status quo.

c. University Chair. We support the ongoing commitment to funding the chair in lake studies at Waikato University.

d. Lakes Management Strategy. This strategy was initiated in 1996 following mounting concerns expressed by a number of groups like ourselves over the lack of co-ordinated management in dealing with issues considered to be of importance for the future well-being of the lakes and lake catchments. Along with others, we expressed our views and support in principle for what we saw as a positive approach to these concerns. Whilst we acknowledge that political and resource issues have caused significant delays, we have again become frustrated over the protracted and slow progress made in implementing the Strategy. Over the past year, some effort has been made to move forward albeit slowly. We remain hopeful that the Strategy provides an important opportunity to better manage our lake resources. We urge EBOP, along with the other partners, to increase co-operation and expedite progress on this project.

SPECIAL ORDER - KAITUNA CATCHMENT CONTROL SCHEME DIFFERENTIAL RATING SYSTEM

This is a summary of our submission to the above Special Order which proposes to change the current method of rating from separate levies on the Lower and Upper schemes to a Whole-of-Catchment Differential system. The submission outlined our concerns relating to the proposed changes and sought a deferment to allow for sufficient time to discuss and debate the recommendations in the Analysis Report. In essence, we opposed the changes on the grounds that we had not received adequate notification of the detail contained in the Analysis Report and should have been given greater opportunity for consultation. A number of other submissions opposing the change were forwarded, notably from Rotorua District Council and Federated Farmers.

Proposed changes to the Kaituna Catchment Control scheme have been mooted for some considerable time. However, Scheme News Number 4 dated October 2001 gave formal notice of the proposed

changes whilst Scheme News Number 5 dated March 2002 (which was supposedly sent but not received by all ratepayers including ourselves) provided some fundamental information regarding status and a few examples of indicative rate changes. Furthermore, we were not provided with copies of the detailed Analysis Report in time for appropriate consultation to take place. As a bona fide organisation representing a significant body of affected ratepayers, we would expect to be afforded such opportunity.

The prime reasons for dissatisfaction are that:-

a) the only detailed rationale for the changes are contained in the Analysis Report which we obtained a few days prior to the 12 April 'Open Day'. It was only at this stage that we had sufficient detail to make constructive representations. We believe that, given the contentious nature of the proposed changes, it was not acceptable to have convened only one scheme meeting for Rotorua ratepayers, late in the process, which severely restricted further opportunity for follow-up consultation and debate.

b) The Analysis Report is the result of a review and subsequent classification carried out by a private consultant engaged for the task. Several issues require further explanation or

clarification. Firstly, statements by the Classifier regarding the relative benefits and exacerbatory effects of Upper Catchment works and schemes are seen as not being fully substantiated. The 'net benefit' has been determined as favouring those in the Upper Catchment areas and this needs to be debated further to establish its validity or otherwise.

c) We believe that the proposed Classification system is excessively complicated. 34 Groups and Classes of properties have been allocated throughout the Catchment, encompassing the various urban, rural and lake and stream side properties. Each of these attract a varying 'site component' charge and a differential rate depending on the type of property and its proximity to a water body to be imposed as a Regional charge. RDC already has a differential rating system which could accommodate such changes without the need for additional and more costly administration.

In the face of significant opposition, including that of our three Regional Councillors, EBOP recently voted (6-5) to ratify the change which will come into effect on 1 July 2002. We, along with other groups, are seeking advice as to what recourse, if any, is available to overturn a decision which results in seemingly inequitable changes.



Matawhaura

LAKE INSPECTORATE REPORT

Letter to the Editor

I must firstly thank Jim Stanton for inviting me to take the opportunity to introduce myself. I have recently been appointed to the position of Lakes Inspector for the Rotorua District Council, and even more recently as Harbourmaster for the District so as you can imagine, it's all on here!

Ratepayer organisations, especially those associated with the lakes, are very important to the Inspection Unit. We commonly have vested interest in the waters and safety of those who utilise them, and it is to this end that a healthy and positive relationship between our organisations can be hugely productive.

As we cannot be in more than one place at a time, it can be hard monitoring changing situations relating to safety and navigation. Those who reside around our lakeshores can help to be the 'eyes and ears' of our unit. Therefore concerns relevant to the safety of the lake and its users will be received with appreciation.

I invite you to feel free to contact me at the Rotorua District Council with any queries or concerns you may have in relation to our lake waters.

Sincerely
Andrew Lang
(Harbourmaster)

Our thanks to Andrew and we hope that the excellent relationship that has been fostered with the Inspectorate over the years can be continued. We look forward to regular contributions

from the Inspectorate as part of our ongoing effort to highlight issues and concerns regarding the lake and its environs.

Many will be aware that former Harbourmaster, Dave Pilkington died suddenly last December at Lake Okataina during an altercation with an out of District lake user who was believed to be contravening lake bylaws. Dave had a cardiac seizure and sadly was unable to be revived.

Dave was a good friend who was widely respected amongst our lakes fraternity. Although he had his frustrations, more particularly over a lack of adequate resources, he was very passionate about the work involved and his service, co-operation and assistance over many years will be appreciated and remembered by many. It is all the more pity that he could not have been around to take over the new boat which is presently under construction.

Having initially instigated requests in 1998 for RDC to procure a new boat after it became clear that the existing vessel was woefully inadequate for the task, we shared Dave's despair when the ensuing debate over what type of boat was needed and whether it should be designed for both the regulatory and maintenance jobs dragged on for almost 4 years. We are obviously most delighted that a decision was finally made earlier this year to proceed with the purchase of a boat to carry out both tasks. The boat is a Ramco monohull Sports Fisher 6.8 metre with factory fitted hydraulic lifting gear, chosen for its ability to provide the preferred equipment at least cost (just under \$100,000) along with the best after-sales service delivery.

Mobile Library Calendar

Tuesday Route 2001/2002

Fortnightly from 14 May 2002

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 Okere Falls Store

The Mobile Library carries a good selection of

- * Adult and Childrens
- * Fiction
- * Non-fiction
- * Large print
- * Magazines
- * Talking books
- * New Zealand Fiction & Non-fiction
- * Music Cassettes and C.D.'s
- * Videos

Special requests can be made for specific items.

PROPOSED REGIONAL WATER AND LAND PLAN

The Proposed Regional Water and Land Plan closes for public submissions on 17 May 2002. There are concerns amongst some of our landowners with regard to Rule 11 which is an effects-based rule that addresses the discharge of nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorous) from the intensification of land use activities in the catchments of lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti, Rotoehu, Okareka and Okaro.

These five lakes have been currently identified as requiring immediate arrest of declining water quality. The measures proposed in Rule 11 are designed to ensure that any future activities which result in a net increase in the export of nitrogen or phosphorous from the property will become a discretionary activity requiring appropriate Resource Consent.

The 'net increase in nutrients' refers to nutrients entering any surface or ground water over and above the level

being discharged prior to the change in activity. Such activities include a) the conversion or intensification of agricultural activities including dairying and increased stocking rates. b) change from agriculture, horticulture or forest to unsewered residential including new sub-divisions. c) intensification of residential land use in Okareka, Hinehopu, Mourea and Okawa Bay.

Measures to control any increases will be required to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on water quality, including surface and ground water.

Most of the concerns come from farmers and large block owners who fear that the rule will adversely affect future economic decisions which may become necessary. The committee has resolved to support the Plan in principle with some reservations over its ability to stunt legitimate growth and development.

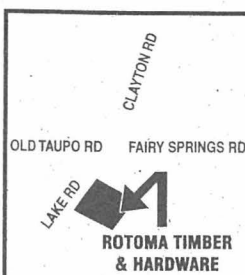


TRY THIS!

FOR EVERYTHING YOU NEED AT THE LAKE THIS YEAR

- TIMBER
- HARDWARE
- BATTS
- GIB BOARD
- TRUSSES
- PRENAILS
- MOULDINGS
- FENCING
- LANDSCAPING
- DECKING
- NAILS
- HARDIES PRODUCTS
- PARTICLE BOARD
- PLYWOOD

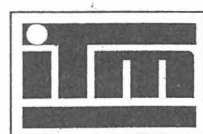
SEE THE TEAM AT



ROTOMA TIMBER & HARDWARE

163 LAKE ROAD - ROTORUA
PH 07 347 7023 FAX 03 346 0768

or email us at rotoma@xtra.co.nz



NEWS & VIEWS

Rural Refuse Transfer Station. We last advised that RDC had made a formal objection to the Environment Court in respect of several conditions imposed as part of its Resource Consent to construct the Transfer Station at Okere Road. These matters have now been settled out of Court. The construction phase has now commenced with earthworks well underway. An area adjacent to the Refuse site is also being developed to allow for the relocation of the West Rotoiti Fire Unit from its present site on the corner of Te Akau and Okere Road which has been inundated with floodwaters in recent years. The existing building is ready to move shortly.

At our last AGM, a resolution was passed 'that the Association adopt a recommendation that the opening hours for any Transfer Station within Rotoiti be seven days a week' Whilst it may be optimistic to expect such an undertaking, we will certainly be pushing for sufficient opening hours to cater for all of our ratepayers. Consultation on hours and any other matters of concern is to be carried out by RDC prior to the commencement of operations.

Rotoiti East residents are waiting to see whether the proposed site for a Transfer Station at Waitangi Springs will get the go ahead. If it does, some residents such as those at Gisborne Point will have to travel extra distances to dispose of rubbish. Whilst obviously sympathising with calls for a facility closer to home, current Council policy provides for a maximum radius of 13km to a refuse site and there is no sign yet that this is likely to change.

The other main concern with skip sites closing is the likely impact of more indiscriminate dumping around or even in the lake. We certainly hope that, despite these misgivings, the majority of people within our communities will continue to act responsibly and also help to keep a close eye on others who may be disposed to such actions.

Community Centre. The Association Committee has recently been discussing the lack of a Community Centre or Public

Hall within our locality. Difficulties in finding a suitable site loom as being the main problem initially. This is presently being investigated. Any ideas from members or residents will welcome.

Ohau Channel deterioration. Some Channel residents have recently expressed displeasure and concern over the gradual deterioration of the Channel bed following dredging and realignment some 40 years ago. They have bemoaned the fact that the previous clear water and shingle beds have all but disappeared with ongoing silting occurring. Further recent developments are seen by some as exacerbating the problem.

Much of the previous realignment was carried out to alleviate constant local flooding and this has been achieved to a fair extent. Whilst it is unlikely that restoration of the bed is possible, we have written to Environment BOP seeking their comment and research into what, if any, options might be available for the future arrest and/or improvement to the quality of this waterway. We have received no response to date.

Resource Consent Applications. A number of people will have experienced some frustration over the rigmarole of obtaining a Resource Consent for what in some cases are relatively minor building projects to their properties around the lake. Amongst others they are advised to seek the concurrence of the LRRRA as an interested party.

We apologise for any inconvenience and are taking steps to modify our involvement which stems from the desire to be informed of any significant proposals which may impact upon the local environment. Unfortunately, all proposed activities which occur within 25 metres of the lake margin are subject to discretionary or controlled consent applications. Because we are registered as an interested party, all applicants are required to obtain our endorsement. We will ask to be excluded from projects concerning private residential buildings.

ON-SITE EFFLUENT TREATMENT REGIONAL PLAN

Earlier in the year, ten months after Draft submissions closed, we at last received notification of Environment BOP's response to our submissions regarding Plan Change No. 1. In short, all of our proposals to re-address the rules regarding 'target' areas, tank size failures, and low occupancy situations were rejected. One of the reasons cited was that they did not form part of the proposed Plan Change and others had therefore not had the opportunity to appraise these issues. Neither would they be discussed at a pre-hearing meeting so we opted not to have one, going straight to the formal Hearing instead.

Here, we again raised concerns that the scientific rationale used in the identification of some areas targeted for regular inspection and clean-out programmes was debatable and that EBOP should work alongside RDC and NIWA who are carrying out progressive investigations within the areas concerned to better determine the extent of impact from septic tank discharge and cost benefit of any proposed remediation measures.

RDC also presented submissions which made similar requests. However, both Councils are of the opinion that even if homes have overall low occupancy, the likely loading on septic tanks during high occupancy (eg holiday times) is critical enough to warrant adherence to a standard inspection regime.

It should be noted however that this Plan Change allows for inspection intervals to be extended from three to six years if dwellings of no more than three bedrooms have a septic tank volume greater than 2700 litres (or 2000 litres if fitted with an effluent filter at the tank outlet), or 3300 litres (2500 litres) for dwellings with no more than six bedrooms. The cost of retrofitting outlet filters is quoted as between \$400-500.

Our other prime concern is the issue of administration of managed programmes. EBOP response to our submission is that they have implemented a regulatory framework and are not into service delivery under the Plan. Why then are they administering the current regime which requires Rotoiti property owners amongst others to arrange their own septic tank clean-out on top of which they charge an annual fee to set up and administer a data base which is already in place at RDC.

We strongly object to this type of duplication (it is being replicated with the Kaituna Catchment Scheme) which compromises optimum delivery costs to individual ratepayers. We are adamant that RDC, as the territorial authority, should be responsible for service delivery where required and that EBOP should confine itself to setting policy. We shall shortly be seeking meetings with both EBOP and RDC to pursue all issues of concern.

For Lake Property Sales contact The Professionals

If you are looking for a proven sales record with confidentiality assured - contact us at McDowell Real Estate. Our clients will receive the finest service in Real Estate.



BETTY SHEPHERD
Lakes Specialist

A/H (07) 345 9162
Mobile: (025) 997 711
20 Million Dollar Club
Top 10% NZ Wide



The Professionals

McDowell Real Estate Ltd MREINZ

1290 Eurera Street, Rotorua
Ph. (07) 348 4159 Fax (07) 347 7071



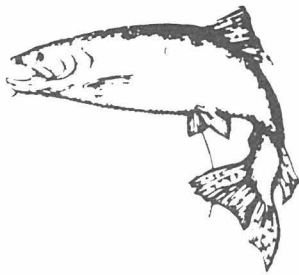
Bay of Plenty Regional Council

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

ANGLERS' CORNER



Sadly there is no outstanding fishing news as yet, with many small fish being reported - and even they are taking time. However with the hint of possibly a cold winter, these last few weeks are showing optimistic signs of improvement which will hopefully continue through to June.

One local recently reported catching two 7lb trout on a deep lead line fishing halfway down Rotoiti, but the east end is still proving more prolific as usual. Both of the above fish were caught on 'shocking pink'. It seems that the 'No 9' and 'Black Toby' are going reasonably well down deep, and the 'brown and silver frog' for harling. Lake Rotorua is fishing well at present with just the wind limiting areas closer to shore.

There has been an unsubstantiated report of Okawa Bay producing record quantities of trophy fish on 100 metres of lead line with 50 metres of backing. Please proceed with caution as the Bay is not designed for great numbers of vessels trolling outside the ski-lane. Some are attributing this report to a local German of dubious veracity, but the matter should be resolved in coming weeks!

GAEL BOUCHER

PARADE OF THE WOODEN BOATS

SUNDAY - 3 FEBRUARY 2002

Another good turn out for the 5th annual parade. This event is now well established and attracts interesting boats from all over the North Island. Thanks to all the helpers who 'front' every year. A real interest this year were the two waka which led the parade out of the Okere Arm - see you again next year we hope?

The parade is run on a non-profit basis - we had a small accumulation of funds so four sturdy lakeside tables were placed at picnic spots around the lake. These have been well used. Our thanks to the Rotoiti Scenic Trust Board for their assistance with this project - and to the crews of Nautilus (the Rathbones) and Rambler (the Martins) who helped the committee with the work.

Some thought is being given to the possibility of setting up a Lake Rotoiti Wooden Boat Squadron comprising of all the beautiful classic boats on our lake. The parade has shown that we do have something rather unique going on. Perhaps it should be formalised as a club of some sort?

A meeting will be called around July of skippers of those boats who have been regular parade attendees to kick a few ideas around. In the meantime, if you have any suggestions, give Brentleigh (Ph 362 4700) or Lindsay (Ph 362 4876) a ring. Take care on our lake over the winter months - the water gets pretty cold!!

LINDSAY BRIGHOUSE

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

LAKE MAINTENANCE

NOEL & SUZANNE RUEBE

OKERE FALLS

LAWNS - GARDENS - RUBBISH REMOVED - TREES CUT -
PROPERTY SECURITY - PUMP MAINTENENCE - PAINTING -
TRACTOR WORK - SOIL & METAL CARTAGE

PHONE 0-7-362 4814 MOBILE (025) 948 730

P.O. BOX 495 ROTORUA

GISBORNE POINT PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY

For over a decade, we have been making formal requests to RDC through the Mayor, Ward Councillors, Council Engineers, and Draft Annual Plans to implement improved footpathing between Wharetoroa Drive and Emery's Store, but to no avail.

Around 1995, RDC established a Rural Footpathing, Kerb and Channel Policy and a priority list was established. However, budget constraints saw little progress made. More recently, RDC has indicated that they no longer operate a formal rural footpath policy with problem areas instead being addressed according to urgency. Since there was no significant 'crash data' for the Gisborne Point area, it had not been identified as a priority.

Last year, we again submitted to RDC that they should urgently review the deficiencies in pedestrian access along this section of SH30 with a view to providing remedial action. In response, RDC once again noted that Transit NZ had decided that it did not warrant funding under their policy. As Council's Rural Street Improvements programme was already fully committed for the next three years, it would have to be re-assessed against other priorities within the allocated funding.

Following this, local committee member Peter Carr-Smith undertook to raise local support by way of further awareness and petitions, as well as conducting additional research in preparation for submissions to this year's Draft Annual Plan. Council Engineering staff also met with Peter on-site to discuss the issues first hand. From this, it is understood that Engineering staff consider that there is inadequate and unsafe separation between pedestrian and vehicular traffic and that a practical safe walking surface is non-existent. It was agreed that a simple walkway style path on the northern side of the road would markedly reduce the pedestrian risk level.

It is now necessary to persuade Council to include sufficient funding in this year's budget round to implement the project. Peter is co-ordinating a submission backed by local petitioners. The Association is providing a supporting submission. It would also assist the cause if as many residents as possible forwarded individual submissions (they can be kept as simple as you like). If you require help with these, contact Peter for assistance. Remember, Annual Plan submissions close 27 May 2002.



Lake Rotoiti, West to East

WEST ROTOITI FIRE FORCE NEWS

During February 2002 the Fire Unit received delivery of our brand new fire engine - the Daily Post and Rotorua Review both featured this event. On 9 March 2002, the new engine was 'blessed' during a ceremony held at the present fire station on the corner of Te Akau and Okere Roads, and attended by approximately 30 local residents with special guests Theo and Marjorie de Lange, Rev George and Lil Bennett, and Bert and Audrey Kingi. Chairman Barry Wade gave a brief outline of coming events for the Unit. Rev Bennett then blessed the new engine but proceedings were interrupted with news of a vehicle accident on Taheke Road, so the new engine and crew were very quickly on into action! Following light refreshments and the return of engine and crew, Theo de Lange (Patron of our Unit) presented a framed photograph of the Unit's original fire engine (taken at Otaramarae), and then cut the ribbon on the new engine and declared it 'fit for service'.

The contractors are well under way with preparation of the site (further up Okere Road on Whangamoa Trust land, and adjacent to the new Transfer Station) for the relocation of the fire unit building. The contents have been stored in readiness for the move which is due to occur during May.

Two of our volunteers had their vehicles, which were parked at the fire station, broken into whilst attending a vehicle fire at Okawa Bay Road in the middle of the night - this vehicle had been stolen and police believe the two incidents may have been connected.

The fire unit has had several callouts this year to date - assisting with rescues from the Kaituna River, road accidents and deliberate vehicle fires!

Well, daylight savings has ended - did you remember to check the batteries in your smoke alarms? The 'closed' fire season has ended, but if you live within one kilometre of a forest or scenic reserve, a permit is still required for outdoor fires such as burning autumn leaves - permits can be obtained from DOC or Fletcher Challenge Forests.

REMEMBER TO DIAL 111 IN AN EMERGENCY!

REVIEW OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

In the last Newsletter, we reported that as part of the present review of the Local Government Act, it had been recommended that property owners only be allowed one vote in local body elections, ie the District in which they are on the electoral roll. This would see non-resident ratepayers once again partially disenfranchised as they were ten years ago.

The consultation document illustrates the limited extent to which the ratepayer franchise is actually being exercised across the country. It suggests that it is difficult, on the grounds of cost effectiveness, to justify its retention.

Both this Association and RDC firmly rejected this proposal in submissions to the Select Committee last year. We cited the principle of 'no taxation without representation' and the importance of areas with relatively large absentee owner populations to be given the right to participate in Council planning decisions.

In the summary and analysis of submissions, it was noted that of 231 submissions responding to the proposal, 197 did not support it. However, a number of submitters (mainly Councils) suggested reducing compliance costs by removing the obligation to invite non-residential ratepayers to register to vote before each triennial review. Given our large out-of-District membership, we shall seek to ensure this does not happen!

EXPERIENCED 'LAKE PROPERTY SPECIALISTS'

FOR EXPERT AND CARING REAL
ESTATE SERVICE ENQUIRE TODAY

LAKE ROTOITI
Rotorua, Rotoehu & Rotoma

L.J. HOOKER™

Nobody does it better™

Cnr Hinemoa & Amohau Streets,
PO Box 77, Rotorua
DX No. JP30040
Facsimile: 0-7-348 2381

VIV PAYNE Lakes Consultant



fax 07 348 2381
ah/fax 07 362 4510
mob 027 272 4236
tel 07 348 5058

NGAIRE WOODS Urban Consultant



fax 07 348 2381
ah/fax 07 362 0086
mob 027458 9477
tel 07 348 5058

LAKE ROUNDABOUT cont...

Pollution of Lake Rotoiti from Rotorua. With environmental and lake water quality problems becoming increasingly topical, the following articles 'gleaned' from records of a historical nature may be of interest. The first is an article by the Lake Weed Control Society in late 1986.

We all know that Rotoiti has for years received the liquid from the Rotorua Sewerage Treatment Plant (not the solids as they are removed), and we all know that the result is that the Rotoiti water is becoming more and more murky and in places unpleasant to taste. The discharge from the Ohau Channel has been a long study by two scientists, Dr Vincent of the Marine and Freshwater Division of the DSIR, and Dr Spigel of the Department of Civil Engineering of the University of Canterbury. Their joint report will be published in the Press as it is eagerly awaited and of great authority. Its appearance will raise many questions!

Admitting that Rotorua will take years to clean up its effluent, is there any short term measure to relieve the Rotoiti waters of their burden? Can anything be done at either end of the Ohau Channel? The Channel has altered. The Rotorua District Plan of 1970 shows an island of two acres, a Reserve called Koeoroa. Has its disappearance caused the flow to change direction? Could a cut to the northern bank restore the position? The cause of the trouble in Rotoiti seems to be the difference in temperature between the two waters. The colder Rotorua water ponds on the bottom of Rotoiti. The Channel has been straightened and presumably hastens the flow. Is it that in the old days the Rotorua water warmed on its slower, longer journey? Then there is the weir at Okere sustaining the level of Rotoiti. It is there to hold back the water - then is the ponding of the water causing the trouble?

The second excerpt is an agenda item from the AGM of the LWCS in January 1987.

The Chairman introduced Dr W. Vincent of DSIR Division of Marine and Freshwater Science in Taupo, who had recently published a report on the impact of

the Ohau Channel outflow from Lake Rotorua on Lake Rotoiti. Dr Vincent, using various graphical presentations, described how the geography of Rotoiti and Rotorua, and the water temperature difference between the two lakes affects the flow of water from the Ohau Channel into Rotoiti.

He commented that the Ohau Channel provides some of the Rotoiti water due to small temperature changes. The Rotorua water when colder than Rotoiti water flows straight down Rotoiti under the surface water, rather than down the Okere Arm to the Kaituna River. This occurs to a major degree during the late autumn and winter months but can happen at any time, even daily between the afternoon and morning. The Rotorua water has a high nutrient content of phosphate and nitrogen which is then carried into the body of Rotoiti.

He also showed how the Ohau Channel provides a large amount of the oxygen for Rotoiti and went on to comment on possible water flows in Rotorua and how it might be feasible to take less polluted water from further out in Rotorua.

He concluded his address with a summary of the findings of the report and some options that can be considered for overcoming the problem. He also commented that while there is the negative effect of the influx of high nutrient levels from the Ohau Channel, there are also positive effects.

The large quantity of water from the Channel provides a flushing effect on Rotoiti changing the water every $2\frac{1}{2}$ years. Without this input, the complete water change would take 6 years. Large quantities of oxygen are provided to the depths of Rotoiti (about 15 tonnes per day in summer).

However, the geographical structure of Rotoiti is such that it would be impracticable to build a diversion to direct the Rotorua water down the Okere Arm to the Kaituna water. Even if this was feasible, it would have disastrous effects on the oxygen supply and ability to flush Rotoiti. The only solution to the problem of increased pollution in Rotoiti is to markedly improve the water quality of Lake Rotorua!

2002 COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

TREASURER

COMMITTEE

Jim Stanton

Fred Whata

Richard Wilson

Donald Calder

Gael Boucher

Peter Carr-Smith

Bill Kingi

Nick Miller

Hapi Winiata

Okawa Bay, Mourea

Okere Falls

Otaramarae

Mourea

Okere Falls

Gisborne Point

Parcliffe

Te Akau Road

Rotoiti East

Ph 362 4690

Ph 362 4842

Ph 362 4308

Ph 362 4222

Ph 362 4815

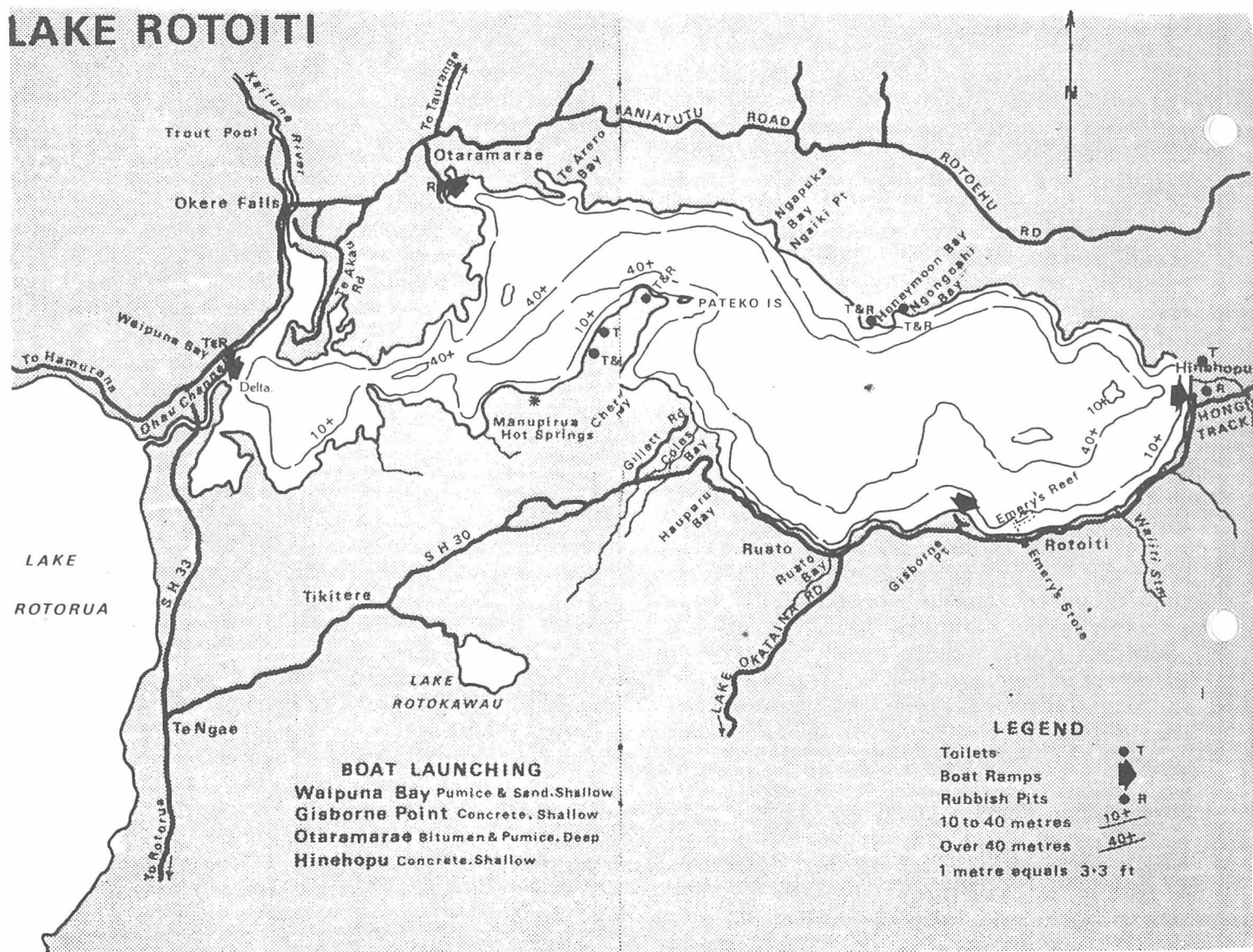
Ph 362 7764

Ph 345 7186

Ph 362 4747

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
 Environmental pollution
 hotline 0800 738 393
 Lakes Inspector
 Andrew Lang 348 4199
 SPCA 349 2955

Police Station Rotorua 348 0099

TrustPower emergency number
 0800 878 787

*Rubbish bags are collected on
 Monday mornings*