

newsletter

Notice of AGM

To be held at 10am on Saturday 2 January 2021 at the Club rooms of the Pikiao Lakeside Sports and Community Inc. (formerly known as the Pikiao Rugby League Club), Takinga Road, Mourea. Nau mai, Haere Mai. All are Welcome.

This year our AGM will look a little bit different as we adapt to a world in which the threat of COVID-19 is ever present. We have had a lot of discussion about how to ensure the safety of the vulnerable members of our community as well as try to maintain a relatively normal AGM.

To follow Ministry of Health recommendations we will be ensuring everyone signs in, uses hand sanitiser and we will also be providing masks for those who need them. We will set up the seating to ensure physical distancing and attempt to keep as many doors as possible open for air flow. Of course, if you are unwell, or have been asked to social distance, you will need to stay home.

An Alert Level change which affects gathering sizes will result in a smaller AGM, possibly over Zoom, that is recorded so all members can view it later. This will be posted on our website www.rotoiti.co.nz and our Facebook page www.facebook.com/ lakerotoiticommunityassn.

For those who do not plan to attend for health reasons and still want to be involved, we ask that you email any questions to Irca@rotoiti.co.nz before the 31st of December 2020. We will be publishing our AGM Minutes on our website afterwards and will advise our members of this.



New Committee and New Online Presence

This year we welcomed six new committee members – Chairperson Reina Engelen from East Rotoiti, Annamarie Jensen from Otaramarae, Tom Macky from Ruato Bay, Dennis Curtis from East Rotoiti, Roy Duffy from Te Puna Whakareia and Mike Gowan from Gisborne Point. Along with Treasurer and long-standing committee member, Jim Stanton from Okawa Bay, Sherilyn Coney from Gisborne Point and Secretary Claire Miller who is from Rotorua but has many links to the Western end of the lake. We farewelled long-serving committee member Fraser Wilson earlier this year and briefly had some input from Rob Trotman, who sadly had to resign.

This committee has a broad range of skills and comes from many locations around the lake. However, we still have space in our committee for more members, so if you want to get involved, particularly if you're at the Western end of the lake, we want to hear from you at lrca@rotoiti.co.nz

The new committee has had to adapt to a new way of meeting this year and we've mastered the art of Zoom calls! We have also gone live with our new website www.rotoiti.co.nz, which is the best place to keep informed about what's going on around Rotoiti with regular updates on key issues. We also now have a Facebook page www.facebook.com/lakerotoiticommunityassn which is a great way to keep informed about the local community as well as council and biosecurity updates. We also engage with and support our local businesses. Please like and follow and encourage your whanau and friends to as well. We are also now sending more regular email updates to our community and will only be doing one printed newsletter in summer.

Chairperson Update

Tena koutou katoa,

This has certainly been a year of unexpected events and change. We have all had to adapt to new rules and language. Imagine at the AGM last year if we had been talking about social distancing, P.P.E, lockdowns and "bubbles"? This year has been a year of change and adaption for the LRCA as well. As you know, Hilary Prior resigned from her role as Chairperson after 10 years, along with a number of other long-serving committee members. This was an opportunity to bring some new faces to the committee, and all but three members are serving for the first time, along with myself.

I volunteered to be Chairperson at our first meeting because I care about what is happening in my community. I want to be involved with an organization that has input into what and how decisions are made that affect my community. I am a Rotoiti resident, from the Eastern end of the lake along State Highway 30. I am proudly Ngati Tamateatutahi/Ngati Kawati (hapu). Ngati Pikiao/Ngati Rongomai/Ngati Tarawhai descent and I have been very involved in the Rotoiti Sports Club, so a lot of locals may already know me.

For those who don't know me, I hope you will have that opportunity at our next AGM I look forward to continuing to advocate for the Rotoiti community.

Nga mihi, Reina Engelen *Chairperson*

Scan our QR codes

To visit to the Rotoiti website or go to www.rotoiti.co.nz.



To visit our facebook page or go to www.facebook.com/ lakerotoiticommunity assn



Lake Rotoiti Community Association

Registered Charity CC11386 | PDC Mourea, Rotorua, 3074 Editor and Production Co-ordinator: Sherilyn Coney Design: Nicola and Victoria from TankerCreative.com

Message from Mayor Steve Chadwick

Summer is a time to reflect, recharge and enjoy time with whanau and friends and given the year we have had, that seems more important than ever right now.

COVID-19 has turned our world upside down and we are still very much in a time of uncertainty. As a Council, working in partnership with others, we are taking a Build Back Better approach to economic recovery with a focus on the wellbeing of our community.

Rotorua Lakes Council also remains committed to tackling issues like housing, ensuring our communities are able to thrive and importantly, working in partnership with others to shape a positive future for our people and our district.

We need a collective, united approach and effort to find solutions that are right for Rotorua and we are making progress on many fronts, despite the challenges 2020 has delivered.

There has also been a lot of progress on transformational projects and significant work has been accomplished to improve community facilities such as those at our lakeside reserves, including Komuhumuhu (Gisborne Point), Waipuna Delta and Otaramarae. I'm sure you and your whanau, as well as visitors to our beautiful rohe, will enjoy these improvements.

Our lakes and rural community boards, led by Phill Thomass and Shirley Trumper respectively, are great advocates who work hard on your behalf and I encourage you to continue engaging with your community board representatives on matters of importance to your community.

Ma te mahi tahi, kia tutuki ai nga moemoea. Working together, we can achieve our aspirations. I wish you all a wonderful and safe summer.



Membership

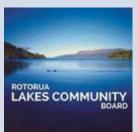
The LRCA represents the Rotoiti community on matters affecting our daily lives and surroundings. We engage with Rotorua Lakes Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council and other statutory bodies to ensure the Rotoiti voice is heard. Recent examples include submissions on infrastructure, amenities, lake levels, road speed limits, rubbish collections, sewerage and getting approval for lake structures like jetties and retaining walls. We cannot do this without your support. Membership is only \$15, so please start or renew your membership now. You can easily do this online at www.rotoiti.co.nz/membership. This is the best way to be involved and stay informed about the important issues for the Rotoiti community.

Cobblestone Paving Retaining Walls Fencing Instant Lawn Decking Landscape Plans 2ton Digger and Operator for Hire Landscape Consultants Exposed Aggregate Concrete



paul@terrafirmabop.co.nz

LAKES COMMUNITY BOARD



REPORT 2020-2021

Wow, what a year! Just as it has been for everyone else, 2020 has been a difficult year for your Community Board. All our plans for meetings and projects have been overturned, and in many ways it feels like we have lost the whole year to Covid-19.

We had intended to double our number of meetings out in our communities to 10 this year; instead all meetings stopped for us in March through until July, and we only managed to get back out into our communities in September. We haven't been able to come to Rotoiti yet but look forward to doing so early in 2021.

Likewise many of the projects we were leading or contributing to came to a halt as Council resources were redirected to helping support people in the Rotorua District. It was impressive to see how not only Council staff but also our lakeside communities rallied round to help each other during lockdown, and the responsibility shown both by permanent residents and holiday home owners.

We had been hoping a number of projects would be partially funded by Government's TIF programme in 2020, including the proposed improvement of the public toilets and parking area at Otaramarae. Sadly there was no funding round this year. We do hope that it will return, and this project has now been added to the 2021-31 LTP planning.

There have still been achievements this year however. At the start of the year the Lakes Community Board supplied and installed 2 AED units in East Rotoiti at Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Rotoiti at 1620 SH30 and at the Rotoiti Sports Club, 1303 SH30 – and a third unit in West Rotoiti in partnership with LRCA, located at the VR Rotorua Lake Resort hotel, beside the front entrance.

Other projects we have been working on have also been completed, or have hit milestones. For a number of years the Board has been working with Safe Roads (now internalised within Waka Kotahi NZTA as Safer Journeys) on improvements through Okere Falls and Mourea. This year we saw the introduction of reduced speed limits through both settlements, something these communities have been asking for many years. Another part of the project, initiated by the Community Board, has now been approved by Waka Kotahi after consultation with iwi and other stakeholders. This is a linking of Okere and Mourea by a Shared Pathway between the settlements beside but separate to SH33.

Another long running project is also in its final stages - the second boat ramp at Komuhumuhu Gisborne Pt (covered in a separate article). It is 5 years since the community came to the Board with a petition asking for this ramp, so it was gratifying to see it finally opened on the last day of September, in time for the new fishing season. There is still some work to be done on the reserve, including signage to relate the stories of the area. It is fantastic to see this incredibly historically important site being respected both physically and with the planned storyboards to tell its history and importance to iwi.

We were also pleased to be able to give a grant to the Rotoiti Sports and Community Club to help them improve heating in their building.

Going forward we are planning to continue our ongoing Toilet Refurbishment programme (halted temporarily by Covid). This refurbishment programme is funded 50/50 by the Community Board and Council. This year we are looking to refurbish the two toilet blocks along Tamatea St at Hinehopu, consulting with the Te Tahuna Trust on this work. We are also committed to providing an increased level of service for our local community playgrounds, by funding exciting new equipment for them that otherwise could not be provided. Many of our playgrounds are in need of upgrading. Rules have changed around acceptable equipment, soft surfaces, etc and so while these upgrades are being done we're taking the opportunity to help Council provide innovative and exciting equipment to challenge and inspire our children and their play. Our first playground will be on Tamatea St. We're working with Te Tahuna Trust and once we have a design we'll be consulting with affected properties as well.

Once again this summer between Christmas Day and Auckland Anniversary Weekend we'll be providing Glass Collection areas at Eastern Rotoiti, in the same locations as last year. We'll also be getting this message out through the appropriate local community channels. Last year in that month-long period we collected 35 tonnes of glass through the collection areas!

Council and the Board are expecting we'll be busier than ever this summer around our lakes, so take care on the roads and lakes, and make sure to check your boats and water craft for pest weeds and fish each time you launch and retrieve, especially if you're changing lakes. And of course pay attention to Covid-19 messaging and use the QR code app!

Mere Kirihimete Noho ora mai

Phill Thomass, Chair, Rotorua Lakes Community Board

Second Boat Ramp and Jetty at Komuhumuhu Gisborne Point

After more than 5 years since a formal request made through the Lakes Community Board and Rotorua Lakes Council, the second boat ramp at Komuhumuhu (Gisborne Point) has now been essentially completed. A Karakia (blessing) was performed by local iwi on 2 October 2020 to officially open the new facilities which are designed to ease congestion and enhance the needs and expectations of the locals and visitors alike. Work began earlier this year in May to upgrade the eastern end of the reserve. The upgrade included construction of a new concrete boat ramp and jetty as well as a formalised parking area with park furniture also added.

Gisborne Point is historically a pa site known as Komuhumuhu, and is a heritage site, which means once the resource consents were approved, the Bay of Plenty Regional Council worked with Heritage New Zealand to appropriately improve the area. The finishing touches to the upgrades will be cultural interpretation panels that will help to share the significance of the area. These are being created in collaboration with Ngati Pikiao Koeke and local hapu Ngati Te Rangiunuora to create the panels.



Otaramarae Boat Ramp

Earlier this year Rotorua Lakes Council carried out maintenance on the road surface adjoining the Otaramarae boat ramp. There have been ongoing negotiations between Council and adjacent landowners in seeking to increase the footprint of the parking area at this location which has been under pressure for many years. The toilet block and playground are other facilities awaiting upgrade. A number of options are still being considered but unfortunately, there remain some obstacles in this process which, if and when resolved, could be targeted in a request to the Tourism Infrastructure Fund to advance as a possible joint venture.

LAKES WATER QUALITY SOCIETY

The Lakes Water Quality Society is working on a range of fronts to further the protection of the Rotorua Lakes and to ensure that there is ongoing investment into both in-lake and catchment activities which will enhance their water quality and natural ecosystems. Significant projects for the Society this year have included:

Pest management within the lake catchments, in particular wallaby control.
Development of our clean boat

programme to prevent the spread of pest fish and plant species between Lakes.

• Sewage reticulation projects around the Lakes,

in particular for Lake Tarawera.

• The implications for the Rotorua Lakes regarding the implementation of new Government freshwater reforms. Pest management within the Lake catchments is becoming increasingly critical as the damage that is being done to the indigenous vegetation and habitat is significant. The Lakes Water Quality Society is advocating for a comprehensive effort into the management of possums, stoats, rats, and wallabies especially in the catchments around Lakes Rotoiti, Okataina, Tarawera, Okareka, Tikitapu, and Rotokakahi. The populations of the pest animals appear to be reaching significant proportions and are now potentially threatening

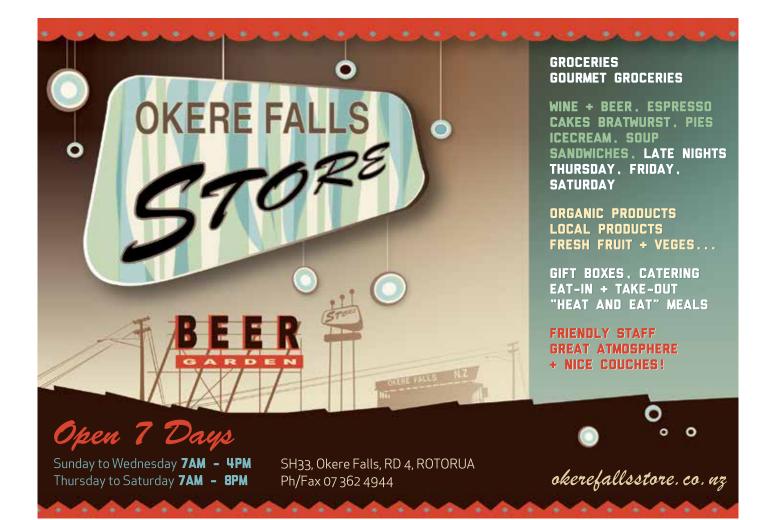


Lakes Water Quality Society Te Kahui Kounga Wai other conservation work in the district. The Regional Council through the Ministry of Primary Industries will receive a substantial lift in funding to address wallaby control where the major emphasis will be on restricting further spread of wallabies. We are hoping this is the start of a concerted effort to bring these pests under control and ultimately reduce the core population of wallabies around the Lakes to low sustainable levels.

The introduction of new pest fish and plants into our Lakes is a real threat to the natural

lake fauna and flora. Over the last 2 years the LWQS has been advocating for "beefed up measures" to ensure boat operators take much more responsibility for checking that their boats are clean when moving between lakes and at the time of launching. We welcome the commitment this year by both the Regional Council and the Te Arawa Lakes Trust in monitoring boat ramps more vigilantly over the summer and introducing a paper based registration scheme which verifies that boat operators are aware of the need to have a clean boat and that they have actively ensured there is no contamination. The LWQS welcomes any feedback on the conditions of the lakes and we wish all the lakes users a safe and happy summer season.

JOHN GIFFORD | LWQS CHAIR www.lakeswaterquality.co.nz





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UPDATE NOVEMBER 2020

Lake Structure Resource Consent Renewals

The LRCA December 2017 Newsletter contained a comprehensive outline of the renewal process commenced by BoP Regional Council (BoP). More recently the LRCA website published earlier updates in March 2020 and April 2020, and then in September the update noted the recent publishing of the TALT Cultural Mapping report for Lake Rotoiti.

Available at https://atlas.bopc.govt.nz/api/v1/edms/document/ A3571190/content. If you are a lake structure owner it is recommended you read this report and note the categorisation of your structure(s), identifiable by your geographic area/jetty number/resource consent number. Ngati Makino have not yet submitted their cultural mapping report, and its significance is therefore unknown.

Subsequent to this, a group of structure owners around the lake have been giving consideration to the report and the renewal process BoP has underway following TALT's report. BoP are delegated by RLC, LINZ, DoC, F&G to front their respective interests as well as their own.

Of interest is that for the first lake processed, the small number of consents at Lake Rotoma were issued 30 year consent renewals. This is promising. On the other hand, there appear to be some differences in the Lake Rotoma and Lake Rotorua reports, compared to Rotoiti, over the categorisation of effects as being "less than minor", "minor" or "more than minor", which has implications for 'notification' by BoP and the possibility of a more complex renewal process for Rotoiti. Hopefully this may get resolved.

The group has raised with BoP that due to the work by Derek Nolan QC and a large number of submitters to the 2014 RLC District Plan review, they achieved 'permitted activity' status for existing lake structures in Lake Rotoiti (as well as Rotoma and Rotorua). This does not apply to 'Lakes A' zoned lakes at Tarawera and Okareka.

Consequently, BOP has been asked to clarify for the group what cultural or other effects are relevant to BOP's functions for the renewals, given the permitted activity status achieved with RLC. There must be some distinction between the two groups of lakes. This will be further discussed with BoP, before meaningful dialogue is undertaken with TALT, with whom all lake structure owners would desire to maintain trusted and enduring relationships.

Lake structure owners can direct concerns to LRCA if they wish. LRCA will continue to update members, and this will no doubt be raised at the AGM. Don't miss it!

ROTORUA DISTRICT RATING Ongoing Pursuit of Fairness and Equity

In response to the impacts of Covid-19, Rotorua Lakes Council proposed some rating relief as part of its 2020-21 Annual Planning. This resulted in a nil general rates increase, an evidently diluted average targeted rate of 4.7% to meet essential service maintenance and renewals, and an opportunity to defer rates for the period based on specific thresholds (primarily aimed to assist business entities).

With the 2021-31 Long Term Planning underway, attention is again turned to our perennial quest in seeking better outcomes in terms of fairness and equity for our lakes ratepayers. The gradual extinguishment of a general differential for rural (including lakes) residents has been subject to our objections over many years, particularly for Lake Rotoiti residents who clearly benefit significantly less than their urban counterparts in terms of amenities and facilities and access thereto. In our view, the oft stated Council rejoinders of all property owners having reasonable access to services, and references to cost equalisation in maintaining the District's water and waste schemes (which were implemented following protests that rural ratepayers had reciprocated significantly towards previous urban upgrades), falls some way short of maintaining overall parity.

We acknowledge that RLC carried out a preview of current rating policy last year with the intent of considering a formal review as part of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan process. Whilst this resulted in several areas identified for further debate, none of these address what we believe to be the fundamental inequities that form the basis of our long-held dissatisfaction. Nonetheless, LRCA will continue to seek dialogue with Council in ongoing efforts to have those issues of concern expressed by our lakes ratepayers further considered.



UPDATE NOVEMBER 2020 East Rotoiti/Rotoma Sewerage Scheme

Active communications with Rotorua Lakes Council (RLC) have provided 2020 updates on the LRCA website including: May Majority of Rotoma properties installed and connected to operational Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP). Installation of Rotoiti reticulation of main pipe line underway.

18 Aug Regular updates from RLC sought. Additional funding request submitted from Rotorua and Te Arawa Lakes Strategy group for 50%+ of additional costs above the 2016 estimate.
14 Sept Confirmation tender invitations sent in next 3 months. Update link provided. Reference to issues obtaining owner approval for some Maori land, Maori Land Court involvement as succession not obtained from deceased owners.

8 October Confirmation tender invitations sent to 6 shortlisted contractors for 4 shortlisted on-site systems previous week. Prediction tenders will be evaluated by Christmas; community consultation on preferred tenderer and on-site system planned with Community Board and LRCA in New Year.

Nov LRCA submitted number of questions to RLC; requested a detailed update for this newsletter. **Infrastructure Manager Peter Dine provides information (slightly abridged).**

Project cost increases. The Lakes Strategy Group agrees to fund 50% of additional project costs. Costs updated at tender approval stage. **Shortlisted On-site systems specified for tender:** • Delos fromInnoflow (an improved STEP) • Biolytix • X-Perco (a Hynds Product) • Biorock. The last two are two chambered trickling filter systems that operate aerobically (with oxygen). **On-site Systems.** The pre-treatment systems provide an initialbreakdown of waste before being pumped from each site to a pressurised reticulated pipe network which collects waste from all sites and transfers it to the plant. For the reticulation system back-up generators are provided at each pumping station in case of power failure. For on-site systems 24hr emergency storage is provided in case of power failure along with an alarm. **On-site system installation timeline.** Envisaging a minimum of two years to get all installed.

Maori Land issues do not really affect progress. About 75% of properties can be connected now (they front public road). A need to engage with all households for placement of tanks including Maori owned. Many households are also Maori Land blocks owners, so can do at same time. Can't talk to households until system confirmed, as affects locality, reinstatement issues, etc. Many do have to go to the Maori Land Court, they have been working with us on a management process.• Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) is processing the Rotoma pre-treated systems and consists of a Membrane Bioreactor (MBR) activated sludge treatment system configured as a 4-stage process. It includes chemical dosing for enhanced biological nitrogen and chemical phosphorus removal. Key components of the WWTP and their function are outlined as follows:**Flow Balance**



Tank balances the peak flows from the reticulation system enhances the treatment performance of the activated sludge treatment system; Rotary Drum Screens capture and remove grosssolids and grit that has not been by the onsite systems; Membrane Bioreactors operate as 4 separate tanks with different conditions. The anoxic (without oxygen) and aerobic (with oxygen) bioreactor tanks and membrane system provides secondary biological treatment. The **4th stage of the bioreacto**r is the membranes themselves which are essentially a very fine membrane that separates solids and liquid. The liquid is the treated wastewater (permeate). Permeate Storage Tank is used to store the treated effluent from the bioreactors and membrane tanks. Chemical Storage and Dosing Systems supplementary carbon in the form of sugar is dosed into the bioreactors to enhance biological nitrogen removal. Alum is also dosed into the bioreactors to precipitate phosphorus.

Sodium hypochlorite and citric acid are also used for periodic cleaning of the membranes. **Waste Activated Sludge (WAS) Tank** holds WAS (solids) which is periodically removed from the bioreactors in order to maintain an optimal concentration of biomass for treatment; **Sludge Dewatering System** liquid WAS (at around 1% solids concentration) is dewatered via a screw press and polymer dosing to produce a

dewatered solids cake (at around 15-20% dry solids), collected in a bin and transported off-site; **Odour Extraction and Treatment System** key odour generating areas are covered and internal air is extracted to the site biofilter for treatment via sulphur oxidising bacteria; **UV Disinfection System** provides further disinfection of the wastewater post membrane treatment, using ultra violet light to inactivate pathogenic microorganisms; **Land Disposal System** allows for the treated effluent to be disposed of to land via a series of trenches to the west of the WWTP. The final fully treated effluent filters down through about 60 meters before entering the water table and eventually to the lake.

Peter Dine, Infrastructure Capital Programme Manager, RLC



Te Arawa Catfish Killas Big Catches In 2020

The Te Arawa Catfish Killas kicked off the new school were with 25 schools involved in the programme. Catch numbers steady and then Covid hit. Schools and volunteers were to suspend net checking at level 2. We were fortunated to get permission for a few of the local residents in Te V Bay to continue net checking as well as myself (William A and colleague Davina Thompson. During lockdown, we sa massive increase in the numbers of catfish caught. We wo sometimes catch 1,000 catfish in a single net. During that t the volunteers caught about 17,500 catfish.

Volunteers have continued netting in Rotorua and around Mokoia. Youth programmes in Rotorua are jumping on this Kaupapa and using it as a career path training programme. We have continued right through winter and will increase our nets set for Te Weta Bay for term 4. We have another 3 schools wanting to start up in the new term and will again continue right through Christmas.

Warranted Officer Ramp inspections

In 2019, Te Arawa Lakes Trust (TALT) and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BoPRC) trialled boat ramp inspections at several boat ramps around the Rotorua Te Arawa lakes. In 2020, 12 Te Arawa members were Warranted under the biosecurity act and authorised by the BoPRC to carry out boat ramp inspections. This started on the 1st of October which coincided with the opening of the trout season. These

PROTECT THE LAKES AND RIVERS YOU LOVE



This summer boat and trailer inspections will be happening at boat ramps throughout the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes to ensure that lake users are aware of their obligations to check, clean and dry their gear when moving between waterways.



BAY OF PLENTY REGIONAL COUNCII

Te Arawa Lakes Trust staff are warranted under the biosecurity act and will work with lake users to ensure that freshwater pests are not transferred between waterbodies.

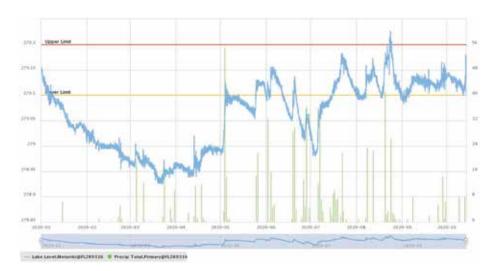
LAKE LEVELS – The Year in Focus

The 2020 year heralded a prolonged period of drought with rainfall well below historical averages until May. With existing operational consent conditions requiring Okere Gate outflows to equal or exceed inflows from Lake Rotorua to optimise lake water quality by preventing reflux back into Lake Rotoiti, levels remained considerably below the aspirational minimum of RL279.10 right up until the first appreciable rainfall in June. Since then levels have been generally maintained within the normal range excepting for the annual drawdown in late July – early August to facilitate the Ohau Channel flush.

This year's first-time ever refurbishment programme for all three Okere control gates was successfully completed over the period February to September. As previously advised, this involved the removal off site of each gate in turn to enable major maintenance work. This also meant that operational procedures over much of the year had to be managed with the use of two gates only. As it turned out, the notable lack of weather 'bombs' made this task relatively easy.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council's Application for a temporary (3-year) variation of the current Resource Consent to allow for a proposed joint trial management regime with Ngāti Pikiao Environmental Society including a one-off drop to RL278.85 was eventually lodged in late July following an extended consultation process. The Application currently awaits decision by BoPRC's Regulatory Arm. In any event, the period of consent would not commence until February 2021. LRCA has insisted that any deliberate low-level drop should occur outside of prime time lake usage periods.

At the recent annual meeting of the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Operational Liaison Group, it was unanimously agreed that the presently consented aspirational ranges for Lake Rotoiti should be reviewed with the aim of discarding set percentages in light of the overriding need to maintain the inflow-outflow regime described above. The caveat to restrict levels above RL279.20 to mitigate flooding, and hold levels in the RL279.10 to 279.20 range as the main objective, should remain intact.



Discover Remote Lake Rotoiti Hot Pools by Water Taxi

Cruise Lake Rotoiti to the boat access only geothermal paradise at Manupirua Hot Pools. Soak in any of the seven pools, whizz down the slide, paddle in the hot water beach or grab a snack from the cafe.

Totally unique to New Zealand, this little haven has been rated one of New Zealands best hot pool locations and is open 365 days of the year!

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BAY OF PLENTY REGIONAL COUNCIL **TOI MOANA**

Catfish

The feasibility of significantly reducing catfish numbers in Lake Rotoiti through the use of biocontrol is currently being investigated. The process, which has successfully been used overseas, involves releasing sterile male catfish into a waterbody to prevent successful catfish reproduction by causing catfish eggs to be left unfertilised. Council are keen to reassure people that catfish biocontrol doesn't involve genetic modification of any kind and is regulated by multiple central government agencies.

An initial feasibility study and modelling undertaken by NIWA has indicated that suppression or even eradication of catfish might be possible through the use of biological control. Next steps for the project involve proof of concept work in a laboratory-based environment, the results of which will be available April next year. Community consultation, along with iwi and hapū engagement will be an integral part of the project development.

In the interim contractor netting and the amazing work of the Catfish Killers and local residents in netting will continue for a long time yet as biocontrol takes multiple breeding seasons to make an impact. For more information and ongoing updates go to the BOPRC website Catfish Biocontrol project page.

Summer check, clean, dry compliance activity

The start of the fishing season on 1 October marked the beginning of a summer programme aimed to ensure that boat ramp users are following the 'check, clean, dry' protocol when entering and exiting any of the Rotorua Te Arawa lakes. Building on the success of last year's spot checks, a team of warranted Biosecurity Officers from Te Arawa Lakes Trust will be helping boaties and other lake users to understand the steps that they need to take in order to stop the spread of aquatic pest weeds and pest fish.

The new Bay of Plenty Regional Pest Management Plan (2018 – 2028) goes further than the previous plan with the introduction of a new rule requiring boat users to self-certify that they have removed any freshwater pest fish or aquatic pest plants

- No person shall leave boat trailers in any water body other than for the purposes of launching and/or retrieving boats.
- No person shall transport ballast water from any water body to any other location.
- All occupiers of vessels or craft entering any water body within the Bay of Plenty shall ensure their vessels or craft (including trailers) are free from freshwater pest fish and freshwater pest plants including fragments.
- All occupiers of vessels or craft using a boat ramp with a self-certification checkpoint must complete the supplied certification form and display it in the vehicle used to launch the boat

As year one of the new self-certification rules the focus is very much on informing and educating rather than enforcing. New explanatory signage is being produced and the check, clean, dry team will be using their boat ramp checks to answer any questions, check compliance and ensure a good understanding of the new rules by lake users.

Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme Rotoiti Trial Update

Bay of Plenty Regional Council is the consent holder of two resource consents that authorise activities associated with the operation and maintenance of the Okere Control Gates at the outlet of Lake Rotoiti.

The Regional Council is seeking variation to these resource consents. These changes fall into two groups;

- A trial to draw the lake level down to RL278.85m for a period of one week. This is close to the lowest level the lake has been recorded at and is based on a joint proposal by the Regional Council and Ngāti Pikiao Environmental Incorporated Society. It will allow investigation of impacts on Lake Rotoiti identified in the Cultural Management Plan. The change is also requesting a variation to the the lake level management regime for a period of three years and five months to test an alternative to "aspirational" lake level targets that will enable more efficient management.
- At the same time, the Regional Council is seeking permanent changes to conditions covering four aspects of the resource consent which are either no longer required or require modification for administrative efficiency.

The Regional Council has undertaken considerable consultation on the proposal and has attempted to minimize the impact on any parties by planning the lowering only on one occasion during the 3 year period and programming it in winter so that once the low level is achieved the lake can be rapidly re-filled.

Ohau Diversion wall Strengthening works

The Ohau Diversion Wall was constructed in 2008 to improve the water quality in Lake Rotoiti.

Seventy percent of the nutrients reaching Lake Rotoiti came from Lake Rotorua via the Ohau Channel. The Wall stops these waters entering Lake Rotoiti and sends them down the Kaituna River. So far this action has been successful in protecting the lake.

Update: It was established several years ago that the steel wall is subject to some critical corrosion of some of the steel components. A structural management plan has been developed by council to monitor and address this issue and provide a framework for ensuring the wall is maintained in a serviceable state for its 50 year life. As part of the management plan strengthening works have been programmed over 2020/21 year. These works have commenced. The work involves fixing a strengthening whaler (steel beam) along the length of the wall to provide lateral support to each of the individual support piles.

Pollution Hotline

Bay of Plenty Regional Council are your environmental first responders. If you see or smell pollution, please call the 24/7 Hotline on 0800 884 883 as soon as possible to report it. Ringing us is the best way to let us know so we can respond promptly. For more information, please visit www.boprc.govt. nz/environment/pollution

Fish & Game Report

Rotoiti Opening 2020

I'm writing this fresh from the 1st October trout season opener on lakes Rotoiti, Tarawera and Okataina and what a great day it was too.

Lake Rotoiti again proved itself as the region's most consistent producer of quality trout, something I'm sure your members will be happy to have bragging rights over!

The day dawned overcast but still which made a change from the typical spring breezes and showers we see in October. It meant that boats could stay out well into the afternoon and enjoy the opening's festival atmosphere. It never actually warmed up much during the day and it wasn't long before solid rainbow trout were being dropped with a heavy thud into fish bins across the lake.

Our staff on Rotoiti weighed and measured 227 trout for the day and (interviewed and checked licences) of 230 anglers. Most people were delighted with their day, but that's no surprise as anglers are mostly happy types anyway.

The trout measured were larger and fatter than the opening of 2019 and the catch rate appeared to be up. The biggest fish on the day tipped the scales at 3.75kg or 8.25 pounds. We did follow up with surveys on Sunday, 4th of October and measured a 4.4kg (9.7lb) brown trout which was caught shallow trolling between Te Weta Bay and the Okere Arm.

Perhaps this season more than most, there's a recognition amongst fishers that 2020 has been a testing year and that just being out and about on the water is a blessing. If absence makes the heart grow fonder, the 2020 opening was a happy place.

As we approach summer, expect it to be business as usual for the fishing. We'll likely see a thermocline (layered cooler water at depth) forming in December and methods such as jigging or deep trolling come into their own. In the meantime, try shallow trolling methods early in the morning or late evening when hungry trout chase smelt near the surface.

And finally, don't forget to Check, Clean, Drain and Dry on the Rotorua lakes. The battle against pest species is ongoing.

Tight lines, Mark Sherburn Eastern Fish & Game



Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

TE NGAE PASTORATE SERVICES

Christmas Services at 9 am at St. Mary's and St. Marks

St Mary's Anglican Church - MOUREA Third Sunday of Every Month - 9.00am

St Marks Anglican Church – OWHATA (Corner Te Ngae Road & Sunrise Avenue) Every Sunday - 9.00am

Nou Mai Haere Mai – All Welcome Enquiries to Ruby-Ann Wiremu – tel 027 245 7111

TE NGAE PHARMACY

YOUR FAMILY HEALTHCARE CENTRE SPECIALISING IN:

BABY NEEDS - NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS -PHOTOGRAPHICS - TOILETRIES - GIFTS - MEDICINALS -FIRST AID SUPPLIES

EFTPOS AVAILABLE

Redwood Shopping Centre, Corner of Te Ngae and Tarawera Roads. Rotorua. Ph 345 9678. Fax 345 9632

M.C. BHULA Reg.Pharm.NZ

Hours: Mon-Hours: Sat:

Mon-Fri: 8.30am - 5.30pm Sat: 9.00am - 1.00pm

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COMMODORE'S REPORT Lake Rotoiti Classic and Wooden Boats Assoc **Activities for 2020/2021**

What a remarkable year. The high note was the beautiful weather throughout summer and autumn, ending in lockdown gazing at unusable boats.

We started our year with our midwinter dinner hosted by the VR Resort, really well attended by members and friends in cosy surroundings. The fishing competition was held in November marked by a poor catch but finished off with an excellent barbeque. Dinghy day combined with a have a go day for kids followed in the New Year, unfortunately a howling gale deterred some but everyone there had a great time. This event is open to everyone so if you know people with a dinghy or kids wanting some fun encourage them to get along next year.

One of our major projects for the year was building three extra 12 person tables at Wairau Bay for everyone's enjoyment. It is heartening to see families use these for day trips etc. We do try to keep Wairau Bay in good order so we hope it is appreciated by the public.

Our main event, the Boat Parade was held over the weekend 7th – 9th Feb. We had about 70 entries in our usual spectacular parade with some steam boats having travelled a long way to participate. Special thanks to the Bay of Plenty Trailer Yacht Club for the use of their facilities for the Friday night briefing. On the Sunday of the weekend we held the usual Float down the Ohau Channel with a big crowd turning out for wonderful weather and a huge amount of fun. This is another event open to all, so encourage any friends or neighbours to turn out in anything that floats.

We held our fifth long lazy lunch in late Feb., as usual this was enjoyed by a good crowd and the food was delicious. March arrived and we just fitted in a new event, a circumnavigation of the lake. Again we were blessed with wonderful weather and such was the enjoyment that we only completed a partial navigation but that didn't matter. Lockdown arrived the following week and that was it for boating.

Do you enjoy boating and having fun on our lake?

If so, why not join us as a member, you can choose the activities to be involved in. Contact Rachel Jamieson zea.rachel@gmail.com

Here is a list of dates for 2021 activities:

3 Jan Dinghy day racing and fun games6 Feb Boat Parade7 Feb Floating fun down the Ohau Channel13 March Circumnavigation of Lake3 April Light Parade of boats.

Wishing you all happy boating, Commodore Dave Wilson

Safe Water skiing

If you're towing someone behind your boat, whether they're on skis, a wakeboard or biscuit, they must wear a lifejacket and only ski between sunrise and sunset.

As a skipper you need to:

- Keep to designated ski areas (or make sure you are more than 200m offshore);
- Always have an observer who is aged 10 year or over; and
- · Always tow in an anti-clockwise direction.

The designated ski lanes and ski areas throughout the region give priority to these activities.

For more information visit boprc.govt.nz/safeboating



GEOTHERMAL PROJECT – TAHEKE 8C LAND BLOCK

After more than a decade in abeyance, plans for a geothermal power station are being reignited for the first stage of a proposed 25-megawatt geothermal plant within a 1214ha land block next to the Okere River (the traditional name for the upper part of the Kaituna River) close to the Okere Falls area. The project is a partnership between the land owners, Taheke 8C & Adjoining Blocks Incorporation, and Eastland Generation, a subsidiary of Gisborne-based Eastland Group.

The Land Trust is seeking to advance further towards developing and unlocking the renewable resource beneath the Taheke geothermal field. Once constructed, the power station will enable Taheke 8C to support the cultural, social and economic goals of its shareholders as well as creating employment opportunities for its people, rangatahi and community. The project is expected to create around 190 jobs and will also contribute to the local and regional community and become a national participant in renewable electricity security and growth.

Initial works are scheduled to commence around March/April 2021 and will cover the design, consents, civil works and well pads, and the drilling of an exploratory geothermal well.



Showroom 91 Riri Street Info@chrissmithglass.co.nz www.chrissmithglass.co.nz



State Highway 30/33 Roadworks and Speed Changes

From the end of June new speed limits came into effect on State Highway 30/33 from Paengaroa into Rotorua, with decreases through Paengaroa, Okere Falls and Mourea/Okawa Bay to 60kms/hr then continuing with a lower limit of 80kms/hr until Rotokawa Rd (which was already 80kms/hr). This has made our community much safer but is still an adjustment for locals and holiday makers who are used to the old speed limits.

The safety improvements along State Highway 33 between Te Ngae Junction and Paengaroa are still underway including road widening to allow for a wider shoulder and a wider centreline, installing side barriers at high-risk locations (where trees and other hazards can't be removed) and relocating services. The northern section includes construction of a new southbound passing lane that travels up the long hill towards Rotorua, this is planned to be open by Christmas 2020.

Between Mourea and Okere Falls Waka Kotahi/NZTA is still coordinating the design of the safety improvements with the proposed shared path. They hope to have an update on the funding and timing for this element for the community and stakeholders soon.



Te Ngae Junction to Paengaroa - Project map Flexible safety barriers at high-risk locations to stop vehicles from running off the road or hitting Wide centreline from trees and deep ditches. Paengaroa to Te Ngae to keep traffic apart and reduce head-on collisions. LAKE ROTORUA PAENGAROA MOURE **OKERE FALLS** Rotoru LAKE ROTOITI

ROTOITI SPORTS CLUBS

ROTOITI SPORTS AND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

State Highway 30, Gisborne Point. Fish 3 chip night every 2nd Friday t 5pm. Bar facilities. Annual membership \$40 plus \$20 to use the gym. Visit Bay of Plenty website for info on home matches. Girl's Rugby Saturday Men's Rugby Sunday

PIKIAO LAKESIDE SPORTS AND COMMUNITY INC.

(Formerly Pikiao Rugby League Club) Takinga Road, Mourea Join us for steak and chips every Friday night from 6pm. Bar facilities available pikiaoclub@gmail.com

HINEHOPU GOLF CLUB INC.

Hongi's Track, Rotoiti Join us for summer Golf Green fees; \$15 for 9 or 18 holes, under 18, \$7 For further information find us on Facebook hinehopugolf@gmail.com





Jim Schuster with Hinemihi. Jim spoke at the opening of the exhibition, Mark Adams: Hinemihi Te Hokinga the Return at Two Rooms Gallery, Auckland in July 2020.

Famous Ngati Tarawhai Carved House Hinemihi Soon To Return To Aotearoa

After over one hundred and thirty years overseas, a great New Zealand treasure will soon return to her homeland.

The whare Hinemihi (1880) boasts strong ancestral links to the Rotoiti region and on return will stand close to her brother houses Uenuku mai Rarotonga (1871) and Houmaitawhiti (1875), which today stand on the Te Punawhakareia and Pounamunui maraes respectively on the shores of Lake Rotoiti.

The life journey of the carved house Hinemihi is one defined by cataclysmic events and the unpredictability of elemental forces. Through eruptions, fires, wars and displacement she has endured. Today she is a revered kuia, adored by her iwi in the United Kingdom and her original owners and creators, Tuhourangi as well as wider iwi of Te Arawa.

Hinemihi is also an artwork, a taonga of rare beauty whose artist carvers Wero Taroi and Tene Waitere were active in the Rotoiti region from the 1860s until the early 19th century.

Hinemihi o Te Ao Tawhito (of the old world) will soon return to Aotearoa, after over a century standing in the gardens of Clandon Park in Surrey, home of the Onslow family whose ties to New Zealand date to the tenure of the 4th Earl, William Hillier Onslow's as Governor-General in the 1890s.

This return or hokinga is the result of a landmark exchange agreement between the iwi of her original creators, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, The National Trust in the United Kingdom and numerous other stakeholders who have lobbied for and negotiated a new chapter so this whare can resume her connection to her people and whenua.

Hinemihi was created in 1880 and originally stood at Te Wairoa as the then entry point for a visit to the famous Pink and White Terraces. The whare was commissioned by the Tuhourangi chief Aporo Te Wharekaniwha to welcome visitors to the village of Te Wairoa. Hinemihi was one of the few structures to survive the eruption of Mount Tarawera on June 10 1886 – over one hundred people survived the terrifying volcanic blast by sheltering inside Hinemihi, the original site is adjacent to the present day Buried Village near Lake Tarawera.

The whare was acquired by Lord Onslow in the early 1890s and taken by him to his home at Clandon Park in Surrey, in Guildford, near London as a memento of his time in New Zealand.

The return of Hinemihi to New Zealand became a possibility in 2015, after the tragic fire of Clandon Park House. At the centre of efforts to lobby for the return of Hinemihi, has been Rotoiti resident Jim Schuster, whose whanau has long links with the whare and the area. His great-great- grandfather Tene Waitere was one of the carvers of the house in 1880 and his great aunt was the famous Guide Rangi of Whakarewarewa. Jim and his family have been working since the 1980s to first restore the whare and more recently to actively campaign for her return home.

AEDs Save Lives

Sudden cardiac arrest can happen any time

Below is a list of your nearest defibrillator. In a Medical Emergency call 111 Ambulance for access information, and also advise the operator of the defibrillator on the fire truck. They page West Rotoiti Volunteer Fire Unit who could be there a lot faster than an ambulance coming from Rotorua.

LOCATION	PHONE	ADDRESS
Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Te Rotoiti	077 362 7718	1620 State Highway 30, Tawhakarere Bay, Rotoiti Forest
VR Rotorua Lake Resort	07 362 4599 or 0800 505 900	366 State Highway 33, Mourea, Rotorua
Rotoiti Sports & Community Assn / Rugby Club		1297-1325 State Highway 30, Gisborne Point, Rotoiti Forest
Manupirua Hot Pools	07 345 8070 or 0800 768 6484	Manupirua Bay (only accessable by water)
Lake Rotoiti Holiday Park	07-362 4860	103 Okere Road, Okere Falls
Rotorua Rafting	0800 772 384	761 State Highway 33, Okere Falls
Kaituna Cascades Rafting Co	027 276 5457	18 Okere Falls Road, Okere Falls



Be that hero. Protect our waterways. mpi.govt.nz/checkcleandry



Hi Flo Pumps & Irrigation Ltd. 72 Old Taupo Road PO Box 548, Rotorua 3040, NZ

Phone: 07 348 7516 Email: sales@hiflopumps.co.nz www.hiflopumps.co.nz

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- Lake works
- Project management
- Landscaping
- Problem solving
- Arborist
- Maintenance

This is a project completed by our team which includes a new boat ramp, new jetty, new breakwater with boardwalk above, picnic areas, stone steps and native planting.

Call Campbell: 027 474 3934 or Dan: 021 177 7355 email: rotoruabuilding@gmail.com

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Fire, Police, Ambulance, Emergency 111			
Police - Non Emergency	105		
St John Ambulance	0800 785 646		
National Poisons Centre	0800 785 646		
Rotorua Police Station	07-349 9554		
Rotorua Neighbourhood Support	07-349 9470		
Owhata Medical Centre	07-345 9699		
Power Companies - Unison	0800-286-476		
Power Companies -Trustpower	0800-878-787		
Energy Online Faults	0800-083 0285		
Rotorua Lakes Council	07-348 4199		
BOP Regional Council	0800 368 267		
Rotorua Lakes Community Board - Phill Thomass	0275-474-455		
SPCA	07-349 2955		
Pollution Hotline (BOPRC) (24/7)	0800-884-883		
Harbour Master (24/7)	0800-556-687		
Dog Control (RLC)	07- 348 4199		
Dept. of Conservation	07-349 7400		
M.P.I Ministry of Primary Industries	0800-809-966		
Environment Pollution Hotline	0800 738 393		
Fish & Game Eastern	07-357 5501		
Fishing Licences	0800-542-362		
Fish Poaching	0800-762-244		
Lakes Maintenace (Ruebes)	07 362 4814		
Pumps - Hi Flo Pumps 24/7	07-348 7516		
Plumber - Peg Leg Plumbing (Rob)	022-475 8622		
Electrician - Hepburn Electrical 24/7	07-347 8491		
Chris Smith Glass 24/7	07-348 5038		
Emery's Store	07-362 7866		
Happy Angler Store	07-362 4709		
Mourea Mini Mart	07-362 4076		
Okere Falls Store	07-362 4944		
Rotoma General Store	07-362 0722		
Manupirua Springs Hot Pools 07-345 807			
Waitangi Soda Springs	07-362 0788		

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Weekly Household Refuse Collection

Only RDC Official Bags will be collected Tie bags securely. Place at kerbside by 8 a.m. on collection day. Lake Rotoiti Collection day is each MONDAY No changes to collection days on Public Holidays

REFUSE & RECYCLING – OKERE TRANSFER STATION

Located at Okere Road (just south of SH33) Hours: Recycle materials and Council issued rubbish bags may be placed in the relevant containers 24/7 (This service is free of charge – please respect it) The Transfer Station is open: 8.30 am – 12 noon Thursdays 8.30 am – 12 noon Sunday and the last day of every public holiday period. The Transfer Station is never open on Christmas Day. Landfill fees apply Domestic waste only NO Trucks NO Hazardous Waste

For further information — 07-3484199

ROTORUA LANDFILL

Located off Atimuri Highway SH 30 1.6 km from Waipa Junction Hours: Monday - Saturday 7.30am – 4.30pm Sunday & Public Holidays 9.30am – 4.30pm CLOSED Christmas Day Landfill Fees Apply

MARINE VHF RADIO ROTORUA FREQUENCIES

Coastguard NZ offers a 24hr-7 day radio service on Channel 02 Visitors are encouraged to make trip reports (TR's) on this channel when using the Rotorua Lakes.

Emergency (May Day) calls are also made on CH 02 and by calling 111. For boat to boat chat three frequencies are available:

- If boats are within sight: CH06 and 08
 If boats are not within sight or on different lakes use CH 64
- Channel 64 recommended for all chat
 All lake users are encouraged to join
- All lake users are encouraged to join Rotorua Lakes Coastguard to support these services and the rescue boats
- Please contact Rotorua Lakes Coastguard at PO Box 892 to join. Your support is needed to provide the radio service. Or find us on www.coastguardrotorua.co.nz, www.coastguard.nz/regions/easternregion/units/rotorua-lakes/ www.facebook.com/Coastguard-Rotorua-Lakes

MEDICAL SERVICES

ACCIDENT & URGENT MEDICAL CENTRE

Cnr Arawa & Tutanekai Streets, Rotorua Phone 07- 348 1000 Monday – Saturday 8 am– 10 pm. Sunday 8 am–11.30 pm

ROTORUA HOSPITAL

Accident & Emergency Department Off Arawa Street Phone 07-3481199 (Call 111 for Ambulance Service) Patient enquiries 07-3497977 (Mon-Fri)

LAKESCARE (URGENT) PHARMACY

Cnr. Arawa & Tutanekai Streets, Rotorua Phone 07-348 4385 Open 7 days 8.30 am–9.30 pm

TE NGAE PHARMACY

Redwood Shopping Centre Phone 07-345 9678 Monday- Friday 8.30 am-5.30 pm Saturday 9am-1 pm

AEDS SAVE LIVES

Sudden Cardiac Arrest can happen any time—are you prepared?

IN A MEDICAL EMERGENCY CALL

111 AMBULANCE but also advise the operator of the defibrillator on the fire truck. They page West Rotoiti Volunteer Fire Unit who could be with you a lot faster than an ambulance coming from Rotorua.

Information and locations of more defibs round the lake can be found on page 19.



This newsletter is printed on sustainably produced paper from ECF (Elemental Chlorine Free) pulp sourced from farmed trees, it is manufactured under the strict ISO14001 Environmental Management System.

LRCA CONTACT DETAILS

Send written correspondence to: The Secretary LRCA Postal Delivery Centre Mourea 3074 Email: lakerotoiticommunityassn@gmail.com