



# newsletter

## summer 2021/2022

## Notice of AGM

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**10AM SUNDAY 2ND JANUARY**

**PIKIAO LAKESIDE SPORTS AND COMMUNITY INC.  
TAKINGA ROAD, MOUREA**

Every year we hold our AGM on 2 January and this year will hopefully be no different—except that we will be holding it with Covid 19 protections in place to make it inclusive and safe for everyone.

This means that it will be outdoors on the field. We will put up some gazebos and have an outdoor PA system. You will need to bring a folding chair, and an umbrella for shade if you want to sit further afield for social distancing.

You may like to bring your own picnic lunch so there can be social time after the meeting for those who wish to stay.

In the event of rain or it being deemed unsafe, we will either postpone or go ahead online only. We will be operating under the limits of the traffic light level which applies at the time.

Details will be on our website [www.rotaiti.co.nz](http://www.rotaiti.co.nz) and our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/lakerotoiticommunityassn](https://www.facebook.com/lakerotoiticommunityassn) so please check on the morning of the 2nd.

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For those who do not plan to attend and still want to be involved we ask that you email any questions or comments to [lrca@rotaiti.co.nz](mailto:lrca@rotaiti.co.nz) before 31 December 2021. We will be publishing the AGM minutes on our website and Facebook page after the meeting.

**NAU MAI, HAERE MAI. ALL ARE WELCOME.**

# Chairperson Report 2021

As we pull together this newsletter, we still have areas north of us that are in lockdown, once again showing us how we cannot take anything for granted and must show aroha and care for each other and our community. We have a special taonga in Lake Rotoiti and it has been a pleasure to be part of a dedicated committee looking out for its interests and of the people who live and own property around it.



Despite the challenges Covid-19 has thrown us, we have managed to have regular meetings via zoom and collectively work on some key issues that are of importance to those who have a connection with our beautiful lake. We hope that you have been enjoying our email and website updates and are following us on our Facebook page for the latest news.

We know that there are many differing views within our community and the things that are important to people can vary greatly. We sent a survey out to our community this year to seek to understand what is important to people and how we can best represent you. We hope to use that knowledge to better advocate for our Rotoiti whānau with central and local government. One thing we can all agree on though, is that our lake is a great asset that needs to be protected for future generations and we are lucky to be part of it.

Ngā mihi nui,  
Reina Engelen  
Chairperson

## Message from Mayor Steve Chadwick

The past 12 months have proven to be another year of uncertainty with the impact of COVID-19 continuing to dominate and impact every aspect of our lives.

At the same time, we have also seen a lot of good work continuing throughout our district and it is great to see the continuing transformation of places and spaces that our community loves.

From a Council perspective this has been an important year with the development and approval of the 2021-31 Long-term Plan that sets the priorities for the coming years. You will all be aware that as a district, we face a number of big challenges that will require a collaborative approach to enable us to have a collective impact and achieve what our community needs.

Housing, investment in infrastructure, community safety and wellbeing, and dealing with the impact of climate change are key areas of work Council has set for the next few years while at the same time finishing what we started.

All of this is happening in an environment of ongoing uncertainty but I know that if we all work together in these challenging times, we will emerge a better community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our lakes and rural community boards, led by Phill Thomass and Shirley Trumper respectively, for their hard work, leadership and contribution.

As a Council we certainly greatly value the views and perspectives they bring to our decision-making on your behalf.

They continue to advocate for their communities on matters that are important to you, ensuring a lakes and rural voice at the council table and demonstrating the power of collaboration to achieve good outcomes.

Mā te mahi tahi, kia tutuki ai ngā moemoeā. Working together, we can achieve our aspirations.

I wish you all a wonderful and safe summer.



## LRCA COMMITTEE 2021

Chairperson – Reina Engelen (East Rotoiti)

Treasurer – Jim Stanton (Ōkawa Bay)

Secretary – Claire Miller (Rotorua)

Roy Duffy (Te Puna Whakareia), Tom Macky (Ruatō Bay),

Annamarie Jensen (Ōtaramarae), Sherilyn Coney (Gisborne Pt),

Mike Gowan (Gisborne Pt), Sarah Uhl (Ōkere Falls)

We have had a number of people express interest in joining the committee, thank you! Any nominations can be made by approaching a member of our committee prior to the AGM or emailing [lrca@rotoiti.co.nz](mailto:lrca@rotoiti.co.nz)

## Lake Rotoiti Community Association

Registered Charity CC11386 | PDC Mourea, Rotorua, 3074

Editor and Production Co-ordinator: Sherilyn Coney

Design: Nicola Devine at [www.TankerCreative.com](http://www.TankerCreative.com)

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## Rotorua Lakes Community Board REPORT 2021-2022

**As I write this article I'm sitting in a friend's lakeside bach while a serviceman repairs an appliance for them. Looking across the lake reminds me how lucky we are, those of us who are permanent residents, to live in such a wonderful place even while Covid impacts on the ability of many of our neighbours to visit. We look forward to being able to welcome everyone back to Rotoiti as soon as possible.**

While Auckland has done it hardest, Delta has also affected us here at Rotoiti, and in Rotorua. Our own shorter level 4 and 3 caused much hardship, and the absence of Aucklanders has greatly affected Rotorua's economy. For the Community Board also, as happened last year again we have lost months where we were unable to meet, and once we were able to, the public wasn't able to attend our meetings at Council, and we haven't been able to hold our usual public workshops. Still, the Board has continued to work hard on your behalf over the year.

When Council indicated that they were planning to refurbish the playground at Hinehopu, the Board also took the opportunity to contribute considerable funds towards extra equipment. Working with the Te Tahuna Trust and Council staff, we funded a new piece of equipment based on the taurapa of a waka. This piece includes climbing panels and a slide, and is a first for New Zealand playgrounds. We also continue to work with Te Tahuna Trust and the Council on upgrading the toilet block at the start of Tamatea St, and on improving the ski-lane beachfront beside the toilets. This work requires a resource consent and is taking a considerable time, but we hope to see construction starting next year.

As well as directly funding projects, the Community Board also has influence over Council projects around our lakes. Traditionally we have seen such lakes based projects at least partly supported by Tourism Infrastructure Funding



from Central Government, the absence of international visitors over the last two years has severely affected planned projects.

I have been honoured to be included as a member on a number of Council's Funding Panels, and this year have been pleased to be able to support a number of well reasoned applications for funding around our Lake, from Okere and Mourea to Eastern Rotoiti there are some fantastic community projects underway.

Another project that the Community Board was involved with alongside the community, was the safety improvements on SH33 from Okere to Mourea. The walkway linking the two villages is scheduled to be completed by the summer holidays, along with improvements to increase pedestrian safety at Okere especially. Please take care to note the changes and reduced speed limit when driving through the two villages.

Another safety introduction over this year was variable speed signs being installed at the intersection of SH33 and SH30 – the turn-off to Whakatane. The speed limit along SH33 for that stretch of road is normally 80kph, but if vehicles are approaching the intersection along SH30, the speed limit reduces to 60kph through the intersection. Please do obey these speeds!

In fact, this is such a dangerous intersection which has seen many serious and fatal accidents over the years, further major safety improvements are planned for it. Detailed design work is being done now and construction is scheduled to start early 2022. Having personally witnessed a number of bad accidents at the intersection over the years I look forward to these improvements being made.

Mere Kirihiomete, noho ora mai

**Phill Thomass, Chair, Rotorua Lakes Community Board**



# Fish & Game Report

## Opening 2021

Opening day 2021 was, yet again, a fantastic time on lakes Rotoiti, Tarawera and Okataina with the weather playing a role in making it one to remember.

Lake Rotoiti's fish didn't disappoint with the lake producing the heaviest fish of the day (as weighed and measured by Fish & Game), a 3.50kg rainbow measuring 670mm. This fish was Lp (left pelvic) fin marked, making it a 3-year-old hatchery release – reinforcing the lake's reputation as one of the best producers of rainbow trout in the North Island.

Rotoiti's 2-year-old spring released hatchery fish averaged 506mm & 1.64kg, the autumn released fish were 546mm & 2.13kg. Both release groups were a little smaller than the 2020 opening, however the 2020 fish were exceptional.

Lake Tarawera performed well producing much larger fish than the past few season openings. The spring released 2-yr-olds came in at 506mm and 1.47kg and the autumn 2-yr-olds measured 553mm and 1.87kg

Anglers reported a lot of fish showing on the fish finders at 7m depth, making trolling an effective method on the day. Four or five colours of lead line or a downrigger set to that depth would be an ideal way to target these fish. Jigging, spinning, and using soft plastics all have their following, but don't necessarily produce good catches at this time of year.

As spring weather draws on and the heat of summer closes in expect the fishing to become more predictable.



Angela Duyvestyn jigging Rotoiti photo by Chris Duyvestyn

Fish will descend to depth chasing their food and preferred water temperatures.

Remember to keep mixing it up! Try something for perhaps just 30 mins, and if it doesn't produce results make a change – a new lure, location, or other method.

Tight lines, Mark Sherburn, Eastern Fish & Game



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# ROAD TO ZERO

As part of New Zealand's strategy to guide improvements in road safety, Road to Zero, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency wants everyone to get where they're going safely whether they are walking, cycling, driving, motorcycling or using public transport.

During June and July 2021, we talked to local community and road user industry groups about the current speed limits on State Highway 30 (SH30) from Tikitere through to Whakatāne. Between 2010 and 2019, 10 people died and 73 were seriously injured along this section of road. We believe we should not view the deaths on our roads as a "toll" that we're prepared to pay to get around New Zealand.

The feedback provided us with local knowledge on how people use the road, and their concerns.

During this engagement phase we received 304 written comments from three drop-in sessions (Rotorua, Whakatāne and Awakeri); 43 emails; 270 comments and suggestions on Social Pinpoint (online forum) with a further 552 interactions from people liking or disliking specific comments.

**The comments from the Engagement Summary Report which related specifically to Rotorua were:**

## Section 8: Rotorua

- Would it be possible to make a proper pavement to enable us to walk to Hongis Track from Morehu Rd?
- This just increases driver frustration; this is a main route to get between Whakatāne and Rotorua. Also, this is the safest place to pass if required. Unfortunately, slow drivers don't pull over to allow people doing the speed limit to pass.

## Section 9: Tikitere

- Cars often park on the southern side in the median strip



adjacent to the gravel pit, which is unsafe. It isn't wide enough to do this and dangerous for people getting in and out of cars.

- Could the 80km signs be moved east past Brunswick Drive? Seems strange that they were put before the road as it would make it safer for vehicles coming in and out of Brunswick Drive.

- The entire stretch from Curtis Road to just past the Hinehopu Golf Club should reduce all the way down to 60 km/h. The current 100 km/h to

Ruatō is too fast and dangerous.

Changing speed limits is a legal process and there are steps to follow when considering making these changes.

After we've completed the review of the engagement feedback, and if it is recommended to propose new speed limits, we will formally consult with you on our recommendations. As part of this we will share a detailed proposal and ask you if there are any additional factors we need to consider. We plan to share next steps on this speed review in the coming months.

Ensuring speed limits are safe and appropriate is one of the best things we can do to prevent people being killed or seriously injured on our roads. However, any changes in speed limits doesn't mean we can't make further improvements to the road.

Our priority is to make this state highway safer as soon as possible which means putting the safety of people before efficiency and travel time.

Visit our webpage for further information and to view the full engagement report: [www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/sh30-tikitere-to-whakatane-speed-review/](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/sh30-tikitere-to-whakatane-speed-review/)

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## BOAT RAMP SELF-CERTIFICATION RULES

**In January this year self-certification checkpoints were set up at 11 different boat ramps around the Rotorua lakes. Compliance of the new rules relating to aquatic biosecurity in the Regional Pest Management Plan have been steadily building with the help of the Biosecurity Act authorised Te Arawa Lakes Trust (TALT) staff regularly visiting boat ramps.**

In year two of the rules the focus for the authorised TALT staff will increasingly be to ensure compliance of the rules while the summer advocacy students will continue to deliver education on how to correctly Check Clean and Dry equipment when moving between waterways around the rohe (region).

Five new self-certification checkpoints are being installed at Rotoiti boat ramps this summer. Please ensure that you complete the self-certification forms at all checkpoints and place it on the dashboard of the car pulling the trailer.



**Be that hero.  
Protect our waterways.**  
[mpi.govt.nz/checkcleandry](https://mpi.govt.nz/checkcleandry)

## CIVIL DEFENCE

**If any areas round the lake are keen to organise a Civil Defence group contact Linda Johnstone, Civil Defence Emergency Response Co-ordinator, Rotorua Lakes Council [linda.johnstone@rotorualc.nz](mailto:linda.johnstone@rotorualc.nz) or Nick Chater, Rotorua Lakes Community Board.**



## BIOLYTIX SEPTIC TANKS

For East Rotoiti Residents who have been asking what the Biolytix septic tank unit looks like—here are photos!

# EAST ROTOITI SEWERAGE ON-SITE INSTALLATION

LRCA has kept in regular contact with the Rotorua Lakes Council regarding the East Rotoiti installation of on-site systems.

Our website is updated with all new information when it is received, and is also referred to in Email newsletters.

Members can also keep up to date with the scheme on the Council website:

– [www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/rotoitirotomawaterways](http://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/rotoitirotomawaterways)

In November Council and Fulton Hogan commenced arranging on site meetings with some Gisborne Point owners to agree installation.

Once consent has been approved, installations will commence.



## Catfish Killas a Monster Catch

**The Te Arawa Catfish Killas has now grown to over 2,500 dedicated volunteers and interest is still growing, with more schools and ECE's wanting to get involved.**

The most recent COVID lockdown interrupted schools' ability to check the nets and the residents at Te Weta Bay lent a hand to assist with checking nets. As soon as alert levels allowed volunteers got stuck straight back in.

A massive congratulations to Lynmore Primary school for being finalists for NZ Biosecurity Awards for the second year straight.

**William Anaru, Te Arawa Lakes Trust**

## Fyke Nets

Regional Council contractor Geoff Ewert has begun pest fish surveillance and control for Brown Bullhead Catfish in the eastern parts of Lake Rotoiti and Lake Rotorua. Geoff will be out and about setting and checking Fyke nets for 15 weeks between September 2021 and April 2022.



# ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL

## ROUNDUP 2021 Long Term Plan 2021-31

The LTP was publicly notified on 30 March. The Plan addressed major challenges around housing and infrastructure, along with the completion of major projects and enhancements intended to support economic development and meet community aspirations. Of particular interest to our lake communities were the extent of rate increases and overall expenditure proposals. Proposed new expenditure of \$731 million over 10 years with just \$328,000 per year for all lakes area additions and renewals lakes is viewed as somewhat inadequate and inequitable. We also expressed concern over the forecast increase in debt to revenue of 224-238% against the current 174% and limit of 250%.

The LTP detailed an average General rates increase of 9.2% in the first year and 3-5% for the following 5 years. Including a proposed reduction to the Uniform Annual General Charge, this actually translated to an average 15.75% for rural (lakes) residents as opposed to 11.4% for urban residents and 8.1% for business. Despite the explanation that this was primarily due to the effect of property revaluations and a greater portion of general rating to our sector, it was nevertheless viewed as a continual disregard for fairness and equity in apportioning rates. Disappointingly, attempts to extract additional information relating to rates calculations and breakdown of expenditure was not forthcoming.

The Plan did include a commitment to review and provide a report on options for a public water supply in Mourea and other un-reticulated lakeside communities. However, this will no doubt await the outcome of the Government's Proposed Water Services Bill.

As many will know, this is part of Central Government's process to reform the ownership and management of New Zealand's 3 waters infrastructure and related services. Government previously released high-level discussion documents and was seeking initial views from councils and iwi across the country. This included a decision on whether to transfer community assets to one of four new 3 Waters entities that would be responsible for the future provision of these services.

Recently, RLC voted to submit its 'Preliminary Position' which is to broadly agree with the drivers for change with the caveat that there are 'fundamental gaps' in the current proposal that must be addressed 'in order to strengthen the proposal and uphold the reform's underlying core intentions'. Recent publicity indicates that Government are 'ploughing ahead' with legislative changes despite strong resistance from many Council's and iwi. However, it seems that a lengthy period of public consultation will be undertaken with implementation date sometime in 2024.

### REPRESENTATION REVIEW

Earlier this year, RLC initiated its 6-yearly review of representation arrangements ahead of next year's local government elections. Following public consultation and feedback, Council promulgated their proposed structure



which can be viewed at <https://letstalk.rotorualakescouncil.nz/your-choice-2022-representation-review>. LRCA has endorsed Council's proposal with emphasis on retention of the Lakes Community Board. Current legislation provides for all District ratepayers to participate in the local body elections providing they register with RLC at the time of election noting that those whose primary abode is in another District can only register ONE person per property.

RLC will include Registration Forms with the First Rates Demand prior to Election period.

### REFUSE

The installation of a high resolution camera at Okere Falls Transfer Station earlier this year has resulted in reduced incidences of inappropriate 'dumping' of large items and mass building product which had become prevalent for some considerable time.

### ROADSIDE VEGETATION CONTROL

In February, we wrote to RLC and Lakes Community Board with a request for confirmation of responsibilities and policy relating to general upkeep of roadside berm and amenities (footpaths) along our lakes residential areas contiguous with SH30 and SH33. There is an existing 'grey' area between NZTA and local Councils concerning responsibility for those stretches of State Highway embracing our local communities. We also sought immediate action to mitigate the overgrowth of trees and shrubs adjacent to the footpathing in the general area of SH30. Infracore have undertaken some pruning and tidying up along SH30 during the year but we are still awaiting confirmation of official policy. Currently, expected responsibilities broadly lie with NZTA (immediate road berms), RLC (footpath maintenance) and homeowners bordering roads to maintain the areas of berm fronting their residences.

## Lake Structure Resource Consents

LRCA regularly discusses progress with Bay of Plenty Regional Council and we update the 'Issues' section of our website. Check this out. They recently advised some owners of existing lake structures that they have NOT applied for consent renewal. Application should be urgently submitted. Contact BoPRC consenting team or LRCA for guidance.





## COME AND JOIN ONE OF NEW ZEALANDS GREAT BOATING EVENTS



**Our 25th annual boat parade and fun weekend starts 4th February 2022, Waitangi weekend, and we would love to see some extra classic or wooden boats of any type join our parade, and make it the biggest ever!**



We are expecting to have the parade started by a real cannon firing, and hopefully led by one or more traditional local Maori Waka like this one above.

Following parading by the bigger boats around Okawa Bay, the boats all park up for inspection along the beach at Wairau Bay, where everyone enjoys their picnic while on the beachside reserve the fun and games start.



By mid-morning Sunday, the strangest possible collection of floaty things gathers on the nearby edge of Lake Rotorua to wind their way together for an hour or so down the pretty and slow moving Ohau channel to Lake Rotoiti, accompanied by the occasional water gun fight.

Bring anything unpowered which will mostly float, including kayaks and dinghies, and you will see every type of inflatable toy and raft imaginable, including the legendary floating settee. If nothing else, float the channel in your life jacket!



On the Friday night, a Captain's briefing dinner at the VR Rotorua Lakeside Resort, and the parade starts in the Okere arm of the lake the next morning.

We are expecting around 100 boats to parade past the reserve in line, very many of them historical and well decorated wooden launches with costumed crews, as well as every other type and size of small boat imaginable, sailed, rowed or powered, including some strange ones like the vintage tiny Personal Water Craft.



Yes, of course there will be the usual bobbing for lollies, sack races, egg throwing, tug-o-war and the great Rotoiti yellow duck hunt for the kids. For the adults, the steamboats usually do a demonstration sail past, and the fast boats show us what they are capable of on their special course a safe distance off the beach.



For more information, Secretary Rachel Jamieson at [info@woodenboatparade.co.nz](mailto:info@woodenboatparade.co.nz) (or phone 0272812101)  
For lots of picture albums: [www.flickr.com/photos/158740532@N05/albums](https://www.flickr.com/photos/158740532@N05/albums)

# LAKE WATER QUALITY SOCIETY

The LakesWater Quality Society advocates on behalf of the community for continued action for improving all the Te Arawa Rotorua Lakes and to ensure ongoing investment in remediation, biosecurity and landscape improvements.

Major focus areas for the Society over the last year have included:

- Ongoing input in pest management within the lake catchments, in particular wallaby control and the society's participation on the Dama Wallaby Regional Coordination Group.
- Monitoring the development of our clean boat programme to prevent the spread of pest fish and plant species between lakes. Over the last year many of you will have noticed new signs advising lake users to check, clean drain and dry their boats prior to launching craft into the lakes.
- Sewage reticulation projects around the lakes, for Lake Tarawera, Rotoma and the eastern side of Lake Rotoiti.
- Organising our 12th symposium "Get on the Boat" – Lake Restoration, Challenges & Maintaining Momentum scheduled for 3-4 March 2022.

During 2021, the Regional Council established the Dama Wallaby Regional Coordination Group to ensure good communication between the control operations being run by the BoP Regional Council, Waikato Regional Council and Ministry of Primary Industries, and the community. This group is designed to provide stakeholder and iwi perspectives into the development of the wallaby operational plan and advise on effective communication with communities. The current strategy for wallaby control is based on "progressive containment". This approach involves stopping the further spread of wallabies beyond a defined containment zone. More information on this control programme can be found on the BoP Regional Council website: [www.boprc.govt.nz/our-projects/dama-wallaby-control](http://www.boprc.govt.nz/our-projects/dama-wallaby-control).

The monitoring of our boat certification process showed that a total of 1191 boat ramp inspections were undertaken by Te Arawa Lakes Trust staff over the 2020 – 2021 summer season. Of these, it was found 14 failed the clean boat standard – which signals a high level of compliance of boaties having clean boats and trailers. This was a very pleasing result. With regards to the self-certification process, 1068 inspections were undertaken with only 246 using the self-certifying process. This is a compliance rate of only 23%. So, there is still much work to be done here regarding ensuring lake users are highly conscious of the risks of transferring pest animals and plants into the lakes and always checking that their boats are not contaminated and self-certifying that their boats are clean.

Sewage reticulation is an ongoing issue for the LWQS with action on the Tarawera sewage reticulation scheme being high on its agenda. At this stage we are hopeful that the



**The monitoring of our boat certification process showed ... a high level of compliance of boaties having clean boats and trailers.**

Rotorua Lakes Council will continue to progress planning for this scheme.

**During the year we prepared one page Policy Briefs for each of the lakes. The required actions in the Policy Brief for Rotoiti were:**

1. Restoration of native flora by suppression and then eradication of lake weeds
2. Suppression and then eradication of Catfish
3. Enforcement of the Rule to prevent further pest incursions (fish and weeds)

by requiring certification of a clean boat before launching.

4. Maintenance of the Ohau Channel Diversion wall.

5. New rules to prevent excess erosion during forestry harvesting.

6. Completion of sewerage reticulation at eastern end.

Our next symposium is scheduled for the 3-4 March 2022, if Covid conditions allow. Our call to action for the symposium is to the community to "Get on the Boat" and work with Lakes Water Quality Society to consider the future and drive policy which meets community aspirations. Two major challenges exist – maintaining the gains made and managing land and water as an integrated system to make the lakes more resilient to changes, enhance water quality, and provide resources for future generations.

**Symposium topics will include:**

- The state of freshwater in New Zealand.
- Policy and regulations – progress with implementation and impacts.
- Mātauranga Māori and managing water in Te Arawa rohe and New Zealand.
- Protecting biodiversity in lakes and biosecurity measures.
- The effectiveness of existing policy in building resilience for and restoring Rotorua's lakes.
- Climate change and lakes - strategies for future protection.
- Impacts of production forestry on water quality and the role of the National Environmental Standard – Plantation Forests.
- Integrated land and water management – what we need to know, policy development, new tools, and their implementation.

We are also planning to have the LWQS AGM on the afternoon of the 3rd March 2022, when all members will be invited to attend the afternoon session of the Symposium and then join the committee for the formal part of the AGM meeting.

We hope as residents and interested groups around Lake Rotoiti – you can put this date in your diaries and join us for this AGM session.

The LWQS welcomes any feedback on the conditions of the lakes' and we wish all the lake users a safe and happy summer season.

John Gifford  
LWQS, Chair





## PROJECT WHAKAHAUMANU

**Project Whakahaumanu (To Revive & Restore to Health) has been underway for 17 months commencing April 2020.**

The centre point for the project is located at the junction of Okere and Te Akau Roads and encompasses the land on both sides of Te Akau Road for 200m and 420m along Okere Road.

In general the purpose of the project is to create two new wetlands, restore two former wetlands, create a viewing point cum carpark and extensive native tree planting.

The two new wetlands are fully planted and complete and both former wetlands are between 65-75% complete. To achieve this considerable effort has been put into dismantling old fences, removing rubbish, trees, blackberry, gorse and other invasive noxious plants.

To assist the project team with planting there have been two community and local residents groups, three school groups (Whangamarino & Rotokawa), three holiday programme groups, two family groups and a young adult team.

A "Mara Kai" (Community Garden) has been established and initial planting of vegetables has been done. It is intended that a community group is to be formed to maintain the gardens and be responsible for distribution of the products.

The Team currently have been working on 5ha with a further 6ha yet to be tackled. The remaining 6ha will entail clearing three hillsides of gorse and planting in native trees.

It is anticipated that a further 2-3 years will see the project through to completion with plans now underway to have pest control & eradication systems in place and maintenance and upkeep of the wetlands, walkways and ngahere (forests) ongoing into the future.

The Team would like to thank the community at large for it's assistance, kind words and support.

**John Treanor Project Manager**





# Lake Rotoiti Community

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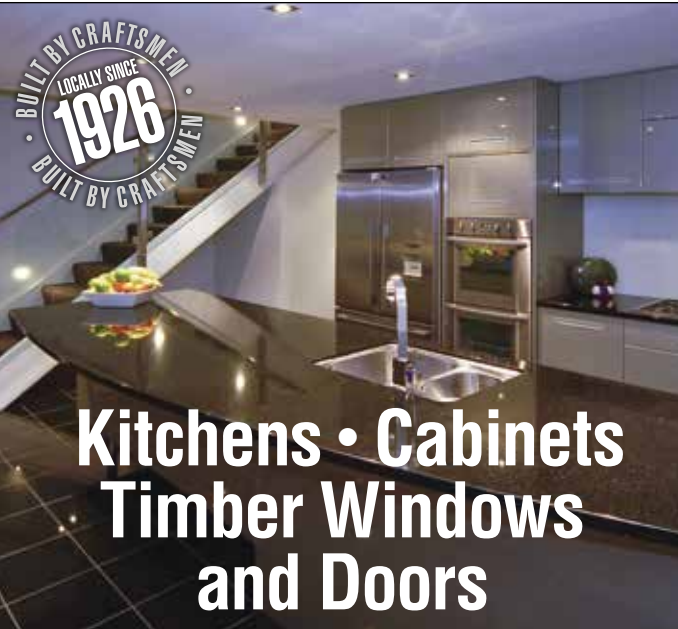
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# Biosecurity Guards at Ōtaramarae

These guards, erected midway through the year, are to protect against the spread of aquatic pest plants caused by boat users who aren't cleaning their vessels and trailers between waterways (a reminder how important this is!).

These should not be mistaken for the point at which to speed up – the 5 knots speed limit continues until the lake opens up at the end of the bay.

These weed cordons, constructed from netting and marked with buoys and markers, are in place in several Rotorua lakes and are designed to catch plant fragments that may detach from boats and trailers entering the water,

**Boat users can be prosecuted for transporting aquatic pest plants from one waterway to another**

blankets, altering habitats for native species, smothering native aquatic plants, clogging intakes on jet boats, fouling propellers and preventing recreational activities, such as fishing and water skiing.

Boat users can be prosecuted for transporting aquatic pest plants from one waterway to another. It's great to see this protective barrier added to one of our busiest boat ramps.

minimising the risk of aquatic pest plant invasions. They are made locally by a father & son team from Rotoma and are an innovative way to trap aquatic pest plants, many of which can easily grow from just small fragments and develop into thick



## INTRODUCING Biosecurity Officer Te Wakaunua Te Kurapa

**Te Wakaunua Te Kurapa is the new Bay of Plenty Regional Council Biosecurity Officer, responsible for aquatic biosecurity around the Rotorua Te Arawa lakes.**

Waka has worked for council for the last four years and has spent time on various aquatic pest projects. He brings a wealth of local knowledge to the role and is working closely with William Anaru from TALT and the wider TALT team to stop the spread of catfish, pest fish and aquatic weeds.



  
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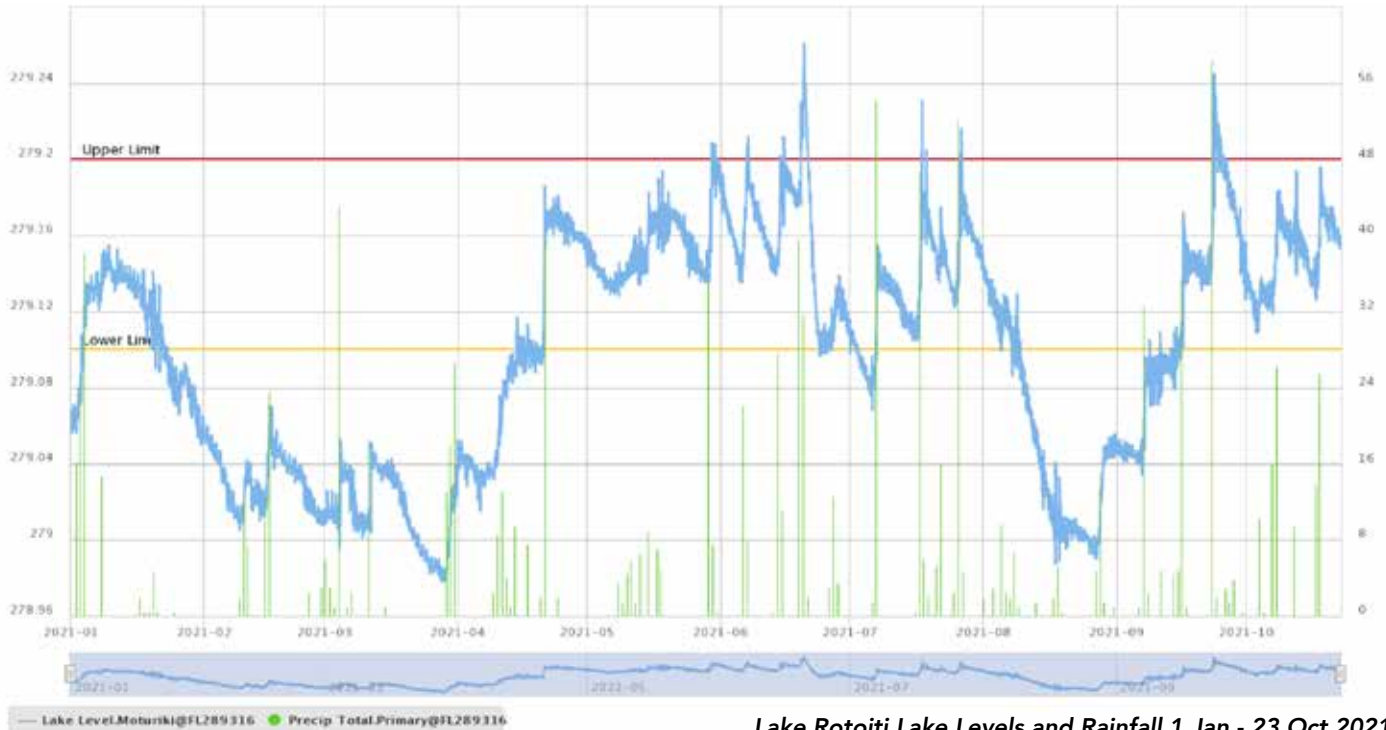
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# BoPRC Application to Vary Conditions of Consent



Lake Rotoiti Lake Levels and Rainfall 1 Jan - 23 Oct 2021

As seen in the accompanying chart, Rotoiti lake levels through most of 2021 have reacted to changing climatic periods with the prevailing operational consent conditions requiring Okere Gate outflows to equal or exceed inflows from Lake Rotorua invariably dictating their course. This has again contributed to some prolonged low levels through summer and early autumn, and similarly during August.

As recently advised in our News Update, Bay of Plenty Regional Council's Application for a temporary (3-year) variation of the current Resource Consent conditions, to allow for a proposed joint trial management regime with Ngāti Pikiao Environmental Society **including a one-off drop to RL278.85m**, was notified to a limited number of stakeholders in August, nearly 2 years after its first airing in 2019. Unfortunately, the Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) lacked some crucial detail and commitment towards providing a firm indication that any **deliberate** draw-down would only be attempted at a time outside of the prime recreational period of lake usage.

This oversight, along with a misleading notion that LRCA has provided unconditional support for the Consent Variation, contributed to some consequent angst amongst our members which is regretted. An inference that the draw-down could be attempted during an extended dry period which would likely result in recovery time of more than 100 days has understandably attracted some strong resistance from a number of lakeside residents and lake users who have submitted their opposition accordingly.

However, we remain of the belief that the proposed measure to accommodate local cultural interests could be acceptably achieved at a time of least disruption, i.e. during late autumn/

winter period. This caveat was conveyed as the principle message from those attending the 2020 AGM and, by and large, this appears to be the overall tenor of feedback subsequently received. It is anticipated that the matter will be subject to a pre-Hearing and/or Hearing in due course.

Importantly, it should be noted that agreement had been reached to **remove** operational conditions that require the annual Ohau Channel 'flush' (which has allowed the lake level to be drawn down to **RL279.00m** annually since 2012) along with the generally unattainable aspirational target levels. This will allow lake levels in the foreseeable future (apart from the one-off proposed draw-down) to be essentially controlled by prioritising the Okere outflow > Ohau inflow principle, and maintaining the lake within the range of **RL279.20m** to **RL 279.10m** at all times practicable.

## KEEP LIDS OUT OF GLASS RECYCLING

Before putting glass bottles or jars in the recycling crate for kerbside collection, it is important to remove bottle caps and jar lids. Non-glass materials in glass recycling collections can prevent the glass from being accepted for recycling. In Rotorua, glass is the only recycled waste material where money can be recovered by on-selling the material. The recovered revenue helps Council pay the cost of recycling other materials.



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## From The Harbourmaster

**As part of the Bay of Plenty Regional Council Harbourmaster team we've had a busy "off-season" on the lakes. It's surprising how many navigational aids shift or break off their anchor point due to weather and wear and tear and the amount of maintenance involved. This includes everything from 5 knot buoys to waterski and static markers.**

The 2022 Boating in the Bay is due out at the end of the month and highlights all of the rules and some of the hazards on our lakes and region. This year we have added the Lake Rotoiti overhead power line locations. You can find this info in the Boating in the Bay section at [www.boprc.govt.nz](http://www.boprc.govt.nz)

This summer we're expecting more people to use the lake space and with that will bring more inexperienced people. On the lakes last year we interacted with 1914 vessels and over 6300 people. 217 bylaw breaches were handed out. We are currently in the process of building a third patrol boat and hope to have this on the water in the New Year allowing us more patrols with better coverage.

**Some things to remember:** In the Bay of Plenty, lifejackets must be worn at all times unless the skipper has assessed the risks and advised it's safe to remove them. Crotch straps are essential for children's lifejackets.



### Things to consider:

- the activity – fishing? watersports? kayaking?
- the distance from shore you intend to go
- the conditions you are likely to encounter

### Your boat must not exceed 5 knots:

- within 200m of the shore, a structure or dive flag; and
- within 50m of another boat, raft or person in the water.
- if anyone has any part of their body over the edge of a power boat.

As boats get more powerful, wake is increasingly becoming an issue. A wake can throw people off-balance, damage other vessels and structures, and erode the shoreline. Always consider the effect your wake may have.

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.

Always have an observer who is aged 10 years or over.

Make sure you say "Giddy" to our patrol teams when you see them out and about, they may just throw some goodies your way for sticking to the rules! Here's to a safe and fun summer on the water!

**Roly Bagshaw Senior Maritime Officer (Lakes)**

## ROTOITI SPORTS CLUBS

### ROTOITI SPORTS AND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

State Highway 30, Gisborne Point.

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Annual membership \$40

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(Daylight Saving to Daylight Saving)

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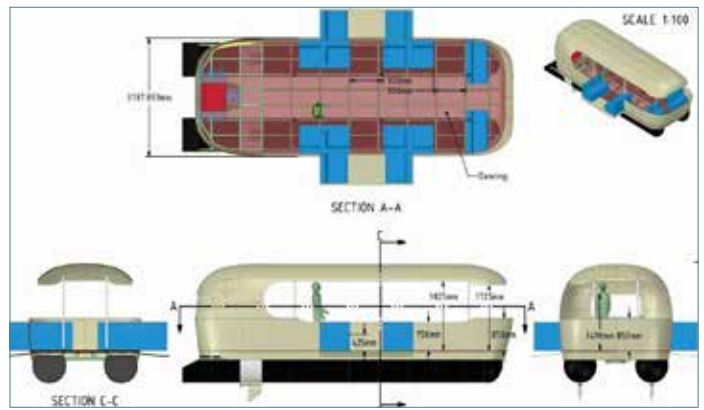
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# Pure Cruise is building a radical electric boat in Mourea

**The Pure Cruise team from Mourea and Okere Falls have dreamt up, designed and are now building a 9-metre pontoon vessel driven by electric motors. The shape, form and finish draws its inspiration from classic 1960's Airstream caravans, second world war aircraft and Italian speed boats!**

The exterior will look a lot like a polished aluminium Airstream, with a couple of thousand solid rivets joining the framing and panels. All side windows will be acrylic and will slide back into the roof and the internal frames left exposed to the passengers

giving a stripped back aircraft look and feel inside.

Seating will be plush dark red leather and trimmed with high gloss native timber tables and ceiling detail. The vessel's sides will be able to be lowered and locked in place by rotating couches forming a swim platform or sunny lunch spot on both sides of the vessel.

***This silent running, floating work of art will be ready for the summer season on Lake Rotoiti – so get in touch if you would like to reserve the vessel for private charter.***



## KOMUHUMUHU PA

Charles Blomfield 1846-1926, Gisborne Point, Lake Rotoiti 1901

Komuhumu was a substantial palisaded village on the site at Gisborne Point of the new boat ramp and picnic area. It continued in use after the European settlement in the area and from the 1850s became the centre for the spread of Christianity. The Te Tairāwhiti invasion of 1864 saw Komuhumu used as headquarters for the troops of Te Arawa to defend the district. Soon after that the people moved to the eastern end of the lake and the church was moved to Te Awahou where it stood till at least 1906.

*The English translation of 'Komuhumu' is 'Whisper'.*

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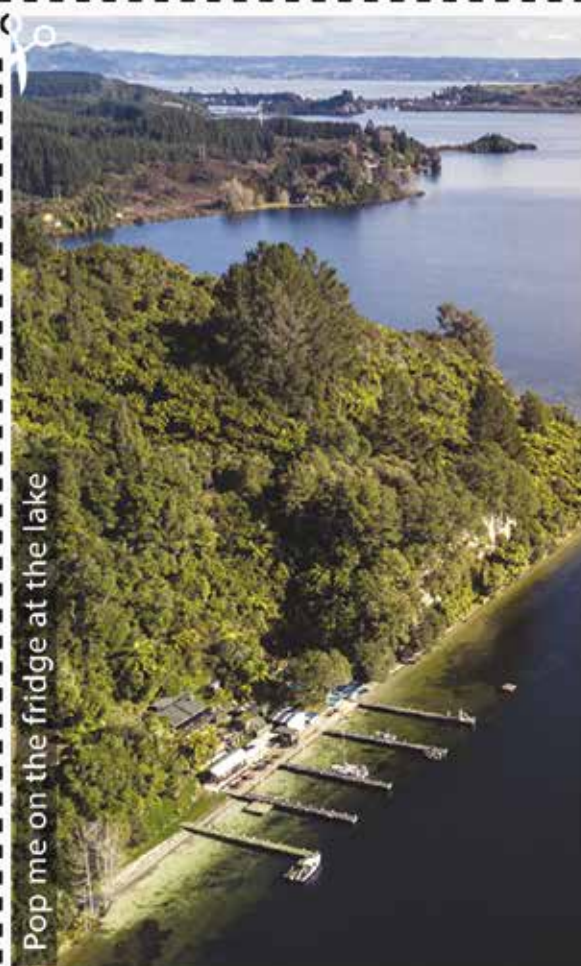
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## Rotorua Rafting and New Zip Line

Rotorua Rafting is celebrating 10 years in November. Managing Director, Sam Sutton 4 x Extreme Kayak World Champion says the original plan was to showcase The Okere Awa but now are involved helping to restore the area to its historical state.

Over the past 24 months, 10,000m<sup>2</sup> of gorse have been cleared from the right river boundary, 10,000 native trees planted, and a start made repairing fence lines alongside the river. Heavy possum browsing through the area was responsible for 100-year-old Kamahi trees falling over and goats had eaten any new seedling trying to grow. Now with fencing, and the continual eradication of pest flora and fauna species, it is exciting to see new growth emerging.

This project is hand in hand with Rotorua Rafting establishing a new venture in Okere called Rotorua Ziplines, which is a joint venture with Okere Inc. Through this venture, reforestation efforts will continue and also it will be possible to fund trials with seedpods, seedlings and hydro seeding native species. It is hoped that funds generated for the Lake Rotoiti Scenic Reserve through the concession fees will enable pest control in the wider Lake Rotoiti Scenic Reserves. This is possible due to the foresight of the Pikiao Koeke 100 years ago. The formation of the Lake Rotoiti Scenic Reserve board was developed to ensure any funds derived from within the area must be kept within the scenic reserves, unlike many other DOC areas around the country.

We hope to have the new Zipline venture operational by January. It will be suitable for all ages and a wide range of fitness levels with amazing boardwalks, spectacular scenery, reforestation, and participation and insight into the connection between Okere and Hinekiri and Hinerangi.



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## Logging the Rotoiti Forests

*From Gisborne Point Early Bach Owner's Book*

**The Te Haumingi and Haroharo blocks above Gisborne Point were important sources of timber from earliest times with a number of canoes being built from trees in the area. Totara timber from Te Haumingi was used to build Whare Nui at Maketu, and Ohinemutu, also the churches on Mokoia Island and Tapuaekura, near Moose Lodge (which was later shifted to Komuhumu).**

The earliest timber mill in Rotorua, built at Tapuaekura in 1884, was the first steam powered sawmill in the district. In 1923 the Mountain Rimu Company established a saw mill at Gisborne Point but restrictions on transporting the timber by road resulted in the closure of this mill in 1925 and the cutting rights sold to the Rotoiti Timber Company. They operated from 1920-1949 and felled the mature trees mainly, rimu, matai, tawa and some kahikatea, from the large native forest behind Gisborne Point. The felled trees had their branches removed and the logs were brought by truck down from the hills to the lakeside logging skids. The logs were much larger than the pine logs we see today, and usually a truck could carry only one log at a time.

A tramline was established through the bush from Rotoma to Hinehopu, and skids erected at various places round the lake. Logs were barged from these sites to the mill at Okawa Bay. Remnants of various skid sites can still be seen mainly just the odd log on the lake edge or submerged just below lake level. The skid site at Te Whetu Bay is easy to see and is often used by boaties to either fish from or walk on the now overgrown track that once had a railway line on it to bring logs out of the bush.

### Logging Days of the 1930's and Early 1940's – Reminiscences from Bob Armstrong

Tuesdays were always a day to remember at Gisborne Point for it was on a Tuesday the timber barge did its trip round the lake to uplift logs for the sawmill at Okawa Bay.

By each Tuesday the skids would be full. Early in the morning, a diesel powered tug boat towing a derrick crane on a large barge could be seen slowly making its way along the other side of the lake. The barge's first cargo was loaded from the skids at the end of the bush tramway in Matawhaura Bay. Then on to Hinehopu to load the next consignment. The logs here had come by a steam-locomotive hauled train from an area between lakes Rotoehu and Rotoma. The remains of the Hinehopu logging skids can still be seen today at the far end of Tamatea Street, Hinehopu. Likewise parts of the formation of



the railway line can be seen on the hillside just at the Eastern end of Hongi's Track.

Finally by the middle of the day, the plume of smoke from the boiler that powered the donkey engine for the barge's derrick crane could be seen wending its way from Hinehopu to the Gisborne Point skids. On arrival, the tug's diesel engine would be turned off, and the steam crane would load the logs off the skids. The process always drew a crowd of interested spectators—no OSH in those days to keep us away!

After a couple of hours, the barge would be full, and was sitting low in the water. We young lads would then jump on to the tug and watch the diesel engines being started. A blow-torch was applied to the engine's cylinders and when the skipper felt that the cylinders were hot enough, somehow the engine was turned over, the diesel fuel ignited and the engine spluttered into life.

The tug would then take the barge to Mourea, the site of the mill of the Rotoiti Timber Company where the logs were cut into timber. The mill was on the site now occupied by the VR Rotorua Lake Resort at Okawa Bay. In the dining room of the hotel is a large wall-mounted photo of the mill. Worth a trip to the hotel to see it.

The sawn timber was then transported by a short railway to the end of Takinga Street, where Lake Rotorua enters the Ohau Channel. There was a long wharf there with another barge tied up to load the sawn timber, taking it across Lake Rotorua to Ngongotaha where it was then transferred to NZ Government Railway wagons for distribution around New Zealand.

Generally the loaded logs travelled safely across the lake but from time to time a rogue log rolled off the barge, while it was being loaded, or on its trip up the lake. The logs remained on the bed of the lake till sometime in the 1980's when a scuba diver was employed to find the logs, and they were lifted to the surface. A very large pile of them were collected on the beach at Tamatea Street until they were taken to be milled. The timber which had been under water for over fifty years was surprisingly good.

# Rotoiti Roundabout

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Thursday Burger Nights till Christmas 2021, then starting again after the Christmas break. You will need to book.

Taco and Beer Special on Friday nights. Lumberjack Brewery from Pukehina brew us a beautiful Helles Lager which we have on tap.

Okere Falls Big Breakfast with Vegan option, and we now roast our own coffee in Okere Falls.

Coming this summer, Real Fruit Ice Cream with dairy and dairy free options.

## Okere Care Group

This is a group of residents at the beginning stages of planning to help look after our reserve on Okere Falls Road. We are working in conjunction with RLC to protect and restore the natural environment.

Top on the list is control of pests plants and animals.

To be added to our email list or get involved hands on, please email Sarah; sarahuhi01@gmail.com

## Hauparu Bay Yacht Race

The annual yacht regatta at Hauparu Bay is held early in the New Year, usually between 2nd and 5th of January depending on the weather and participants.

There is a Cup awarded to the winner and also one for the top junior, with a prize-giving held at the conclusion of the racing.

Introduced for the first time this year, the regatta also featured a men's and women's Stand Up Paddle Board race in the Bay and this is intended to continue.

Anyone outside Hauparu Bay interested in participating can contact Derek Nolan on derek@dereknolan.nz or in January can also call on 07 362-7066.

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## THE ROTORUA AWA CLUB

The Rotorua Awa Club was originally set up by Zack Mutton and other local Okere Falls youths, George Snook and Michel Uhl. Their aim was to enable less fortunate young people to experience the joy, challenge and opportunities, playing on the Kaituna River.

The club has been running slalom events, taken on the annual Enduro race and will organise the Christmas at Kaituna this year. It's a small club with big dreams. Recently the club received a donation from the Sports Bay of Plenty, Te Manawa fund to provide free access for 10 tamariki from Whangamarino and Rotokawa schools to learn how to kayak and remain safe around the water, and funding for some give-it-a-go days for tamariki to try it out. The school programme will start in first term 2022.

Thanks to the Okere community for their support and to CSBOP for all the guidance and help in getting established. A huge thanks to Sports BOP for the funding to get this project off the ground.

If you would like to join us phone 027 279 5357 or at Rotorua Awa Sports Club Facebook Page

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Third Sunday of every month 9.00am

Nou Mai Haere Mai - All Welcome

This Newsletter can be seen  
on our Facebook Page and  
Website during 2022





# AEDs Save Lives

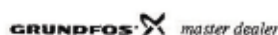
SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST CAN HAPPEN ANY TIME

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LOCATION	PHONE	ADDRESS
Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Te Rotoiti	07 362 7718	1620 State Highway 30, Tawhakarere Bay, Rotoiti Forest
VR Rotorua Lake Resort	027 314 1762	366 State Highway 33, Mourea, Rotorua
Rotoiti Sports & Community Association/ Rugby Club	07 362 7614	1297-1325 State Highway 30, Gisborne Point, Rotoiti Forest (Outside the Main Door at Main Entry to Club Rooms)
Manupirua Hot Pools	07 345 8070 or 0800 768 6484	Manupirua Bay (only accessible by water)
Lake Rotoiti Holiday Park	027 314 1762	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



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



## LAKES LAWNS & TREES

Tree pruning and removal · Hedge trimming · Mowing

CALL ANDY AT LAKES LAWNS & TREES

**027 944 0926**

lakeslawnsandtrees@gmail.com

**FREE LOCAL DELIVERIES  
INCLUDING NGONGOTAHA, MOUREA  
AND OKERE FALLS**

# OWHATA MEDICAL CENTRE - PHARMACY



Husband and Wife, Alwyn and Mary from Okere Falls, Lake Rotoiti. Pharmacists and Owners



**OWHATA MEDICAL CENTRE PHARMACY**  
556 Te Ngae Road, Owhata, Rotorua  
Phone 07 345 5467 Fax 07 345 5479  
owhatamcpharmacy@xtra.co.nz

**PRESCRIPTIONS**

# WE'RE YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD PHARMACY!

WWW.OWHATAMEDICALPHARMACY.CO.NZ

# 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 5678
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 Maintenance (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 8070
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 SH30  
1.6km 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 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](http://www.coastguardrotorua.co.nz), [www.coastguard.nz/regions/eastern-region/units/rotorua-lakes/](http://www.coastguard.nz/regions/eastern-region/units/rotorua-lakes/) [www.facebook.com/Coastguard-Rotorua-Lakes](https://www.facebook.com/Coastguard-Rotorua-Lakes)

## MEDICAL SERVICES

### ACCIDENT & URGENT MEDICAL CENTRE

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

### 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 8.30am–9.30pm

### OWHATA PHARMACY

556 Te Ngae Road, Owhata  
Phone 07-345 5467  
Monday- Friday 8.30am-5.30pm  
Closed Public Holidays

### 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 defibrillators around the lake can be found on page 23.**



BETWEEN WATERWAYS

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

E: [lakerotoiticommunityassn@gmail.com](mailto:lakerotoiticommunityassn@gmail.com)