



Lake Rotoiti Community Association Incorporated



Nga mihi o te wa - Season's Greetings

Summer is meant to be upon us (and was by this time last year) but the last month or so has brought our fair share of westerlies and rain. I was going to say more than our fair share, but after spending a few weeks in Wellington and the Wairarapa recently I now realize that our westerlies are mere zephyrs and nothing to complain about!

Another thing we don't have this year that we did last year is a Health Warning! Of course we can't claim credit for that, more likely the weather is responsible, but we could almost pretend that the lake is also saying a small thank you for our efforts! We have been lucky on Rotoiti that there have been a number of "quick fixes" that could be applied to drastically reduce the amount of nutrients entering our lake. With these all in place or scheduled we now need to address the hard issue of how we reduce these nutrients entering the catchments of our lakes in the long term. The reductions required are so high that it is hard to see that they will be achieved without some drastic changes being made. As a community we must debate how we can achieve these reductions and Land Use must be a major focus of this debate even though it is likely to be a divisive issue at least at the start.

We have a very full newsletter this Christmas. Looking back over previous newsletters I see that the same issues come up year after year; the state of the lake, the diversion wall, sewerage, rates and local government consultation with the community to name a few. This year is no different; these issues are still all to the fore, and more issues keep appearing. We have a full range of articles covering as many of these as possible.

This year saw the Rotorua Lakes returned to Te Arawa, and the Government indicated it will enter into a memorandum of understanding with ENVBOP, RDC and Te Arawa that will commit them to contribute to the restoration of our lakes. These are both very positive events.

Locally it has been another very busy year around the lake. Tenders are being sought for the building of the diversion wall, and with this development our focus in the fight to save our lake turns towards long term actions needed within Rotoiti's and Rotorua's catchments. The Okawa Bay/Mourea sewerage scheme is in place and planning has moved on to Okere Falls/Otaramarae/Whangamarino. Rating issues are still of major concern as last year saw RDC defer a decision on rating reform until this year. Last year the various ratepayer groups around the lakes proposed that a community board be established. A huge amount of effort was put into pursuing this, electors were contacted and a petition was presented to council. Earlier this year RDC declined to create a Community Board. This decision was appealed to the Local Government Commission and we are delighted that they have found in our favour. A Community Board will be elected at the next Local Body elections.

This means that we see it as very important that as many of Rotoiti's residents and ratepayers are on the local body electoral roll. Those of you who are ratepayers but not resident can still be enrolled, details on how to go about getting on the roll are covered within this newsletter.

Of course a busy year around the lake makes for a busy year for your committee and I would like to mention and thank especially our Chair Sally Brock, and Treasurer Brentleigh Bond, for their huge contributions and efforts made on behalf of our community and lake, both through LRCA and also the many other local organisations they are involved with.

We look forward to seeing you all at our AGM on the 7th January, in the meantime,
Meri Kirihimete - Merry Christmas

— Phill Thomass

Chairperson's Report

Tena Koutau Katoa

Nga mihi o te wa-Mau Mai haere mai ki tenai to tatau panui whakamutunga mo tenai tau.

Season's greetings, and welcome to the last newsletter of the year.

I think it is true to say that the major news of the year would have to be the favourable decision by the Environment Court recently, which has upheld the decision granting Resource Consent for the Ohau Channel Diversion Wall.

Next year will see construction, of what I see as the single most important step towards the recovery of Lake Rotoiti. In one single action the nutrient load, that is nitrogen and phosphorous will be reduced by about 75%. Its effects will be the same as reducing the nutrient load to the Lake by other means such as land use change, except that the effects are almost instant! What ever methods we use to reduce the nutrient load going into the Lakes will have the same positive effects IN the Lakes, but the method we choose will have a varying time lag. Lake Rotoiti's major contributor to our poor lake water quality is from one source...Lake Rotorua via the Ohau Channel!

Its effect on the Lake and an improved water quality is expected to take about 5-10 years. During that time close monitoring of the Lake and its health will be carried out. When the Diversion Wall is in place, it will mean that looking after our own catchment in terms of nutrient loss will become even more important.

We will need to make sure that the water entering the lake is as low in nutrients as possible. Riparian and stream protection will be vitally important to reduce the amount of erosion and phosphorous entering the Lake.

The need for a reticulated sewerage supply will be heightened as the need for a reduction of nutrient loss from our catchment increases.

I hope that we can all work together in reducing our impacts on this fragile environment for the sake of the future health of the Lake

A Strategy for the Kaituna River and Maketu Estuary is one of the positive things that have happened as a result of the Diversion proposal.

The Strategy that will be developed together with Iwi will ensure that those environments are restored and protected, and that some wrongs of the past are put right.

Lake water quality issues have been a major focus of the Committee this year. We have represented the interests of the Lake and Residents in the Lakes Rotorua/Rotoiti Action Plan Working Party and have met with Environment Bay of Plenty Staff and Council on many occasions to discuss land and water quality issues, as well as matters concerning rating and cost apportionment among the community for the huge Lake restoration costs that we are faced with.

The costs are likely to be huge, and we are mindful that the costs are simply not going to be able to be met by the Community alone. If the Regional and District Council are left to pay for the major costs, then those costs will undoubtedly be passed down to the Ratepayer. We are hopeful that the Government will acknowledge the part they must play and contribute a significant share of the restoration costs.

Your Committee have spent years trying to improve communication with the Rotorua District Council. We meet regularly through quarterly meetings and at other times during the year when the need arises, and made our usual submissions to the Annual and Ten Year Plans.

Has this improved relations and communication with them...Not sure! We certainly make our voices heard, individually or collectively as the Combined Ratepayers Association. Has our effectiveness improved... again.... Not sure! When you take into consideration the many hours spent on important issues such as the Rating Review and you measure that against the lack of progress made, it's

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LAKE ROTOITI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

to be held at

**Pikiao Rugby League Clubrooms, Takinga Street, Mourea
11AM SUNDAY THE 7TH JANUARY 2007**

Guest Speaker

PAUL DELL, LAKES RESTORATION COORDINATOR ENVBOP

Ohau Channel Diversion

Draft Rotorua/Rotoiti Action Plan

Lake Structures-proposed changes

Preceding the meeting there will be a

BRIEF FINAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LAKE ROTOITI RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

To confirm the Annual Accounts and the winding-up of the Association

Light Refreshments at conclusion of the meeting

NAU MAI HAERE MAI- ALL WELCOME

hard not to question whether the huge effort is worth it.

The Local Government Act requires Council to consult with the Community but whether they actually listen is another matter entirely. They certainly did not listen to the strong message of support for a Community Board that our Residents made clear in the form of written signatories to the petition and unanimously rejected the proposal for the establishment of a Rotorua Lakes Community Board. We appealed that decision, and were successful in our appeal, we are delighted. We have no doubt that the establishment of our own Lakes Community Board is the only way to improve effective representation for our Community. We remain frustrated by the development of Strategies that cannot be implemented due to lack of financial resources. And the lack of services we continue to receive. Believe me, we try very hard to get our fair share, but it is very hard to argue with "there is no money"

We continue to point out that a great deal of money gets spent in the beautification of the City, just look at the parks, gardens and facilities and then compare that to the rural and Lake areas that struggle to get the verges and footpaths maintained to an adequate standard let alone beautified in any way.

The Mourea Okawa Bay Sewerage scheme is now operational (see report later) and after considerable work done by the Rotorua District Council in the planning of the future Lake sewerage schemes they have come back to the Community with what is hoped to be a more affordable option for sewerage reticulation for the Communities of Okere Falls, Otaramarae and Whangamarino.

Any further information regarding the proposed schemes should be directed to Greg Manzano at RDC

Without doubt a reticulated sewerage scheme will be the most affordable option for the Community. New rules under the Regional Council's OSETP will mean that by 2010 all properties in the Rotorua Lakes Catchments will need to replace their existing septic tanks with advanced nutrient stripping systems if they are not connected or unlikely to be connected to a reticulated scheme.

Environment Bay of Plenty is in the process of reviewing the criteria for their subsidies, and we are hopeful that On Site Effluent Treatment systems will be eligible (under certain criteria) for the ENVBOP subsidy in the near future.

Environment Bay of Plenty and Rotorua District Council are in the process of working through the retrospective Resource Consents for existing jetties and boat sheds. Most of the other Lakes have completed the process, but as Lake Rotoiti has the most Lake Structures on it we have been left to last. Some of you may have already received notification.

Those with previously licensed structures (used to be issued by RDC), will soon receive documentation.

There will be 3 costs. 1) A one off fee of \$50 to RDC that will pay for the retrospective Resource Consent. 2) A \$100 annual fee to ENVBOP that will replace the previous license fee paid previously to RDC. This is basically a monitoring fee. 3) A one off fee of \$30 to LINZ for the right to have the structure on the Lake bed. The Resource Consents will be non notified and issued for a period of



10 years, after which it will be up to the consent holder to re apply.

During this 10 year period ENVBOP intends to develop a new policy on Lake Structures which will impact the criteria on which new Resource Consents will be issued in the future. An initial meeting regarding this new policy was held on the 14th of September. The aim of the new policy is in essence to reduce the number of lake structures over a period of time, and apply new objectives and directives for the issuing of future Resource Consents.

We have asked ENVBOP to meet with stakeholders and develop a policy that owners of lake structures can live with. They have agreed to do this, and to start stakeholder meetings early next year.

We know that this issue is likely to be of great interest to many of you so we have asked Paul Dell to include this topic when he speaks at our AGM in January.

Many may have noticed the improvements to Trout Pool Road Reserve. Rotorua District Council has certainly made a huge effort for the benefit of the Community and Visitors alike.

These efforts are certainly appreciated by the Association.

A Transfer Station for the eastern end of the Lake is still being actively investigated. Council are at present working through Land access negotiations with Landowners.

The Committee meets regularly and works pro actively for the Community and I would like to acknowledge the enormous amount of effort expended by this loyal group of people.

Most of us are also important and active committee members for OTHER organisations around the Lake.

We are still without an official Secretary, so would really appreciate someone from the Community putting their hand up at the AGM, if not before!

The Association can only continue to function adequately in what I believe to be a very important role if we have support.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Ko te tumanako kia koa kia pai to koutou hararei mo te kirihimete

No reira Tena Koutou Tena Koutou Tena Tatou Katoa.

- Sally Brock

Rotorua Lakes Community Board



After a long campaign supported by the Ratepayer Associations of Rotoiti, Rotoehu, Rotoma, Tarawera and Okereka to have a Community Board established for the Rotorua Lakes area on the 8th November the Local Government Commission announced its decision that the Rotorua Lakes Community be established and a Community Board be elected at next year's Local Body Elections.

Recent newsletters have backgrounded community boards, what they are, what their advantages are, who is elected to them, what they cost to run, etc. They have also summarised the proposal of electors delivered to Rotorua District Council [RDC], their subsequent rejection of the proposal without community consultation, and the statutory appeal to the Local Government Commission.

A hearing of submitters in Rotorua on the 23rd August satisfied the Commission that the establishment of a Rotorua Lakes Community would promote good local government of the Rotorua Lakes area, and of the Rotorua District as a whole. On the 8th November the Commission announced its decision on the representation arrangements for RDC at the next local election to be held on the 13th October 2007.

The Council will comprise a Mayor and 12 Councillors elected three each from the four wards (no change from the present), and there will be one new community named the Rotorua Lakes Community. (Copies of the Commission's decision and a map of the community area can be viewed at www.lgc.govt.nz). At next year's election, four members of the Community Board will be elected, and two members will be appointed by RDC, one from the North Ward and one from the East Ward.

The statutory functions of the new Community Board will be as follows:

- (a) Represent, and act as an advocate for, the interests of the community
- (b) Consider and report on all matters referred to it by RDC and any matter of interest or concern to the community board
- (c) Maintain an overview of services provided by RDC within the community
- (d) Make an annual submission to RDC for expenditure within the community
- (e) Communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the community
- (f) Undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to it by RDC.

We are delighted with the decision and look forward to working with RDC in a spirit of trust, respect, understanding and goodwill. We believe that the establishment of this Community Board will indeed promote good local

The Need for Email Addresses

It is very encouraging to your committee to have such a high number of residents and ratepayers who are currently financial members of the Society. We believe a number of the issues that we work through during the year are important to you all and the record level of support from the community we have enjoyed over the last two years makes it worthwhile.

However, the higher the number of members, the more difficult it is to communicate with everyone, particularly when we hear of important public meetings with our Councils at short notice. A large turnout on these occasions can send a significant signal to our Councils and it is important that you are at least made aware of them.

A recent example was a public meeting called by EBOP to present their proposals for structures (jetties and boatsheds etc.) in the lake and waterways. With this issue having the potential to directly affect all lakes residents, we wanted to advise you and encourage you to come along to the meeting in support. Unfortunately, there was not time (or manpower at short notice) to advise everybody by letter of this meeting and regrettably, we were left with no option but to send email advice only to the nearly two thirds of you who have advised us of your email addresses.

We are anxious to maximise our circulation of these events and therefore ask all who have not advised us of your email address to please do so without delay. If you are a member, you will find a subscription invoice included with this newsletter. If we hold your email address, it will be shown on this invoice.

If there is no email address on this invoice, we don't have it and ask that you advise us of this urgently. You can write it on the form and return it to us with your subscription, or email it directly to us at grahamb@clear.net.nz (Please quote your membership number).

If you do not have a computer and email address yourself, perhaps you could ask a relative, friend or neighbour if you could use their address. We can then send emails for them to pass on to you. Alternatively, if you are thinking about making the step of investing in a computer, we would encourage you to do so. They have never been cheaper and we are sure you will be delighted with the wonderful world of the internet (emails and web surfing) that a computer will open for you.

Many thanks for your continued support.

- LRCA

government for our lakes area as well as for the greater Rotorua district.

We take this opportunity to thank and congratulate all those more than 700 people who supported the original proposal by signing the form in the middle of last year. We appreciate your support and can confidently say that your support did make the difference.

If you are not on the parliamentary or local body electoral roll for the area and want to vote for your new Community Board next October, please read the relevant article elsewhere in this newsletter. We urge all residents and ratepayers in the Rotorua Lakes Community to enrol and vote next year. A good turnout at the polls will help give your new Community Board the best possible start.

Ecological Care Group Report

Our Lake and its environs are unique and every one who chooses to live here, whether it be on a full or part time basis has a part to play in maintaining and improving the place that we live. Basically it comes down to having pride in where we live and respect for what has been given to us to enjoy for the time that we choose.

We as Lake Residents can help our environment by making a few simple efforts. Looking after our septic tanks is by far the most important. As you are aware we may soon have sewerage reticulation, which means that some of us are not required to have regular inspections of our septic tanks. But if you suspect that your septic tank needs inspecting or cleaning, get it done for the sake of our Lake. If you need to use fertiliser use organic or slow release sparingly and try and use eco friendly detergents.

Don't allow detergents and pollutants to drain from your property via storm water to the Lake.

Look after the Lake edges of your property and plant a buffer zone of plants at the Lake edge.

And remember clean your boat before launching in other Lakes and before launching back in to Lake Rotoiti.

As you are aware a great number of the Community are involved in organised working bees and plantings that the Lake Rotoiti Care Group organises. Not every one can do that but everyone can play a part in making the place that we live a little better by doing just a little bit. Just picking up rubbish on the road side while you are enjoying a walk, reporting large rubbish dumping to Council if you happen to see it, and report offenders! And just taking a general interest in the environment that you live in will make a difference.

The work that the Group undertakes would not be possible without the huge amount of support given to us by Environment Bay of Plenty, in particular the ground staff that give up their private time to assist in plantings, and weed control. We THANK you.

As a "registered care group" we have access to a large amount of resource from the Regional Council, from plants and weed sprays, to Staff expertise and advice on various issues.

The Care Group had another successful working bee and planting day at the Kaituna Lake Edge opposite the Okere Falls Store in August. Our friends from the Corrections Department lent a hand to remove a huge number of weeds and climbers from the site which we piled on to Fred Whata's land for a massive burn off a few weeks later. Thanks Fred! We were dismayed that despite a plea for help from the numerous Rafting Companies (that incidentally make a great deal of money by using the area) not ONE of the Companies turned up to help in the clean up....REALLY BAD SHOW in my opinion!

Keep an eye on the Okere Falls Store notice board and look out for signs on the road edge for the dates and times of future working bees. We promise a good coffee for your efforts! So.....we thank the Okere Falls Store for their support of the working bees at this site.....the coffee and cake shared with your neighbours after the work is done make it all worthwhile. Not to mention the pride you feel as the fruits of your efforts start to grow!

The work is moving towards the Delta Boat Ramp clearing weeds like blackberry, gorse and willow from the end of the original planting site opposite Fred Whata's house to the Rotorua end of the 70km sign opposite Whangamarino School where you may have already have noticed the weed clearance.

Willows prevent growth of smaller native plants and they

do little to prevent stream bank erosion. As a consequence riparian protection and nutrient filtering is compromised. A weed control regime over the summer will see the site ready for planting next year.

Riparian protection at the Lake edge reduces the amount of nutrients going into our Lake. They filter the run off from the Land and once established prevent the growth of blackberry and gorse.

The Okawa Bay plantings are looking fantastic, thanks to the efforts of the Okawa Bay Care Group, and members of the Community. What was once a site infested by noxious weeds is now flourishing with healthy plants thanks to the efforts of a few local heroes!

A number of local volunteers assisted Council with a major planting of the Trout Pool Road site in August. Rotorua District Council has done a fine job in improving this area for River Users.

Again despite pleas for help on this project not one Rafting Company turned up to help! It really makes you think that perhaps Council should be charging these Commercial Enterprises plenty for using the area....after all the take out steps were put in at great expense to the general ratepayer so that they could get their paying customers out of the River safely!

Unfortunately the project at Te Arero Bay has not progressed further due to delays with acquiring written Landowner consent. Hopefully we will be able to report more next newsletter!

Volunteers from the Yacht Squadron and the Classic and Wooden Boat Association have been waiting patiently for the big NOD! They will both have a major input into the restoration of this ecologically important area.

Whangamoa Point has had a huge effort in weed control this season and will probably require one more year of weed control before planting in 2008.

Te Akau Road has had a top up of plants this year, only to be battered badly by the October winds!

It is heartening that this area is only requiring minimal input now with regards to weed control now that the plants are becoming established.

In addition to the above the Group has been involved in a number of beach clean ups around the Lake. I am sure that when you are next out enjoying a picnic at one of the wonderful beaches around our beautiful Lake you will notice the difference.

The Care Group has a very healthy list of people who are willing to help on the numerous projects around the Lake, but we always need more! It is a very worthwhile thing to be involved in as it not only makes our world a little nicer to live in, but also helps our beautiful Lake as well!

I would like to take the opportunity to thank EVERYONE who has helped on the Care Group projects so far ----- especially those people who never mind being nagged by me or reminded or asked!-----without you---none of it would be possible. THANK YOU!

If you have a new project you want to start, or would like to help on one of the existing projects please Phone- Sally 3624764.

- Sally Brock

Interested in Contributing?

We are always pleased to receive items for inclusion in this newsletter. If you have an article or short story, or memories of the lake you'd like to contribute, please contact Phill Thomass, email lrca@thomass.net

Rotoiti Property - from the perspective of the Real Estate agent

It's been a great year with regards to sales over all of Rotorua's lakes but I shall concentrate on Lake Rotoiti.

Firstly my thanks for the efforts that have been put in by the hard working crews of the LRRRA and The Water Quality Society in regards to water quality and to countering the "bad press" we have all read or heard about over the previous couple of years, The positive work done by all involved has certainly made a difference in the minds of those considering a purchase within our lakes district and made my job so much easier, as people realize the work is being done.

After several slower years mainly brought about by the previously referred to "bad press", Labour weekend 2005 saw the start of a steady stream of enquiry, this went on to become in late November through to late February, what can only be termed a frenzy for very well located properties, it was also a period where property values had the chance to catch up for the previous slower years.

A number of properties, well located and with all the attributes of flat lawn to lake, jetty etc sold in excess of their double their 2002 rateable valuation and most of the other sales achieved were ranging up to 69% over their rateable valuation.

Then around the end of February the Reserve bank with Mr Bollard at the helm started on his programme of using the property market as the means to slow down the economy by continuing to raise interest rates. This has had the effect of slowing down the very high end of the market but little effect in the medium to lower end, which continue to be in good demand and achieving good prices because of the lack of stock and therefore choices.

It must be remembered by vendors that every home within the lakes areas have differing benefits to differing purchasers, and purchasers of lake properties are buying firstly for lifestyle, something they can share with family and friends, secondly for investment. The fact that your neighbour sold for X dollars does not mean that yours is worth Xplus because of the difference or because you have this as apposed to them having that.

The very old saying of comparing apples with apples is very true when attempting to arrive at what value your property is, so if considering selling ensure you contact an agent who understands the lakes areas and can sell the benefits of the area to maximize your price. There is no home that won't sell, but there are many homes that don't sell for varying reasons. It is the team work between agent and vendor working together, towards finding and fixing that reason and that gets it Sold.

Wishing you all a very Merry Xmas, good health and prosperous future

- Steve Howard



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West Rotoiti Volunteer Fire Unit

The last 12 months have been relatively quiet for the Fire Unit. Up until 30th of June 2006 we attended 13 call outs, and even though most of them were minor road accidents and scrub fires the nature of some incidents illustrates the need for us to keep our training up to date and equipment well maintained and familiarized with.

The AGM in September saw the retirement of Kevin Jensen who moved on to a more urban environment. In his place Andi Uhl was elected as Chairman. Lucy-Ann Watson remains our Secretary, and Carol Goodman Treasurer.

With several long standing and active members of the unit leaving the area in the last year we are starting to become sometimes short staffed when responding to incidents. We are therefore looking for new fire fighters who would be interested in joining the unit.

Training is held at our fire station on Okere Road every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. Structured training courses are offered several times a year with the support of Rotorua District Council since the Rural Fire Service requires us to complete certain NZQA unit standards.

New members are always welcome. If you are interested or know of somebody who may be, please contact our Training Officer Aaron Martin (ph 362 4752) or Andi Uhl (ph 326 4264).

With restricted fire season in place now (from 1st October 2006 to 30th April 2007) permits are required for all open fires. Please call the Rotorua District Council (ph 348 4199) to obtain a fire permit or you may get a visit from the fire truck at your next rubbish fire!

We thank all our supporters for their subscriptions and donations which help to keep our unit operational. These subscriptions (\$ 10 per household) are due again and may be sent to the treasurer Carol Goodman, 12 Foster Road, RD4, Rotorua.

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

*- Andi Uhl
Chairman*

EBOP – An Update of Aquatic Pest Activity in the Rotorua Lakes

Recent reports of a Didymo-like growth in the Rangitikei River have been confirmed as being the native algae Gomphonopsis. Didymo is still currently confined to the South Island and is now present in 22 South Island waterways.

The threat that Didymo poses to the aesthetic, recreation and biodiversity values of North Island waterways is very real. The Check Clean Dry message that all gear - be it kayaks, fishing tackle, or boats - is cleaned prior to being used in waterways and when being shifted between waterways will minimise the risk of spread.

Trials carried out on Lake Rotoehu to assess the effects/benefits of harvesting the aquatic weed Hornwort as a means of removing nitrogen and phosphorus have proved encouraging. Environment Bay of Plenty is hoping to continue the trial with another harvest in the New Year.

Lake weed spraying will be carried out around several boat ramps throughout the lakes. Boat ramps are targeted to minimise the risk from weed growth in the launching/retrieval area. The less weed in these areas, the less risk of fragments being attached to boat trailers, etc, and being transferred to other lakes.

Environment Bay of Plenty will again be using students to pass on the "clean your boat" message over the summer holiday period. The students will include Didymo awareness and visit rivers throughout the region, prioritising those with rocky, open, sunny environments.

Community Constable's Report

In the month of October Police received reports of burglary to properties at Tamatea Rd, SH 30 Lake Rotoiti and Whangamoa Rd.

Substantial loss was reported in each case including computers, TVs, electronic and sporting goods and jewellery.

With Christmas rapidly approaching most people will be looking forward to a well deserved break. Unfortunately for a small percentage in our community who steal from us, the Christmas holidays also provides an opportunity to increase their dirty trade along with the corresponding trauma it causes to each victim.

In my opinion the typical burglar is a lazy opportunist who seeks an easy way to violate your space and get his hands on your property

Lets make it harder for this to happen.

This summer, please take a few minutes to do a crime prevention audit on your home.

Ask yourself, How easy would it be to get into my home if I was locked out?, What obstacles have I put in the way of a potential burglar? (For example locks and latches/alarm/dog on site/inform neighbour of your holiday movements etc), Do parts of my section provide ideal concealment for the burglar? Do I have all serial numbers of my property recorded and safely stored? Are my jewellery and other valuables locked away? Am I involved with a Neighbourhood Support Group?

With a lot of holiday homes in and around the area also do the right thing, get to know your neighbour and regularly check on their address when they are away.

This year Police will also be working hard over the holiday period putting obstacles in the way of burglars. Your assistance with prompt reporting of suspicious persons and vehicles is an invaluable crime prevention tool and all information is greatly appreciated by Police (in confidence if you wish). Please report anything you feel is not right by ringing 111 immediately.

Alternatively if you wish to contact Police to know more about what you can do to keep safe please contact Constable Mark Wirihana, Te Ngae Community Constable or myself at the Rotorua Police station.

By taking a few simple precautions and keeping a vigilant eye on your environment we could all look forward to a happy, safe holiday period.

*- Brent CROWE
Senior Sergeant Community Services
Rotorua Police.*

Lakes Water Quality Society News

Since our last newsletter significant progress has been made to the Rotorua Lakes Protection and Restoration Action Plans. The question of funding the \$200 million cost of restoration programmes has always been budgeted on by EBOP and RDC with a view to a significant contribution from Central Government.

On the 29th August a delegation comprising John Cronin (EBOP Chair), Kevin Winters (RDC Mayor), Anaru Rangihuea (Te Arawa Maori Trust Chair), Steve Chadwick (Rotorua MP) and myself, together with senior executives from the Councils and Te Arawa, traveled to Wellington to meet the Minister of Finance, Dr Michael Cullen, the Minister for the Environment, David Benson-Pope, and the Minister for Crown Lands, David Parker. The purpose of this meeting was to engage the Ministers on the needs of the Rotorua Lakes and we found them to be well informed on the issues.

We expressed our concerns at the potential lack of funding available from the Ministry of Health's 50% sewage subsidy fund. Without such funding support the likelihood of commissioning the remaining planned sewage schemes was very remote. The Lakes communities are prepared to pay their fair share but support from Central Government is critical to the success of these projects.

The Ministers indicated a need to remain engaged with the Rotorua Lakes Strategy Joint Committee. It was agreed that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between all parties would be the best way forward to achieve this outcome. We understand this MOU will be signed in the next month.

It was great news to receive the green light from the Environment Court for the Lake Rotoiti Ohau Channel diversion. Whilst there are still some hurdles to get over, we can expect the construction to commence in May/June 2007. The nutrient rich waters of Lake Rotorua are the principal cause of nutrient contamination of Lake Rotoiti

and the diversion should allow for significant improvement over time in water quality of Lake Rotoiti, and hence in the Kaituna River.


We recently had a meeting with John Mather and Richard Mallinson of EBOP and Graeme Franklyn, Landward Management, to discuss the new Rotorua Lakes Aquatic Pest Management Plan. The coordinated approach they are taking with all parties concerned should lead to more effective weed and aquatic pest management of the lakes in the future, we feel.

Changes in senior management at Environment Bay of Plenty have seen Bill Bayfield assume the role of Chief Executive. Bill brings to this role strong resource management skills together with a good understanding of Central Government. His willingness to engage with our community was greatly welcomed when he met with our LWQS committee in July. We are confident we will have a good working relationship with Bill and wish him every success in his new position.


We are pleased to see EBOP's decision to establish a new position of 'Rotorua Lakes Programme Manager'. This role will be based in Rotorua and will give much needed support to Paul Dell in implementing the Rotorua Lakes Protection and Restoration Action programmes.

The current level of scientific research and programmes is gaining strong momentum. EBOP, together with Rotorua Lakes and Land Trust (RLLT) have established a database of all relevant scientific research papers. This will be a useful tool for focusing on key issues. The future success of the Restoration programmes will require the full engagement of the Rotorua District community supported by the resources of local and central government. Whilst change in land use is inevitable, it is important that changes are based on strong research, sound economic and environmental policies and are in the best interests of the community and district as a whole.

- John Green, Chair, LWQS



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Lakes Project Update – Paul Dell

The last year has seen a number of important milestones achieved in the Rotorua Lakes Protection and Restoration Action Programme. A number of these have been focused on Lake Rotoiti.

The consent for the Ohau Diversion has now been confirmed by the recent Environment Court decision. While some minor conditions are still to be agreed it is intended to go to tender for the wall on 3 November 2006. Hopefully construction will commence around May – June 2007 which will allow the necessary lead in time to purchase the sheetpiling and prepare the site.

Another highlight was the commissioning of the Mourea/Okawa Bay Sewage Scheme. Feedback from the community has been positive. In the long term this action will benefit Okawa Bay.

In the Lake Rotorua Catchment, the main city sewage plant has had a major upgrade including the use of methanol to help reduce the nitrogen in the treated effluent. Early results have been very promising.

In June 2006 a phosphorus locking plant was commissioned on the Utahina stream to bind the phosphorus in the water into the sediments. The catchment ground water project is almost complete and will feed into the sub-catchment land use modelling work. The modelling will allow the effects of land use actions to be assessed in terms of nutrient reduction and the time for the reduction to occur.

Professor David Hamilton (Environment Bay of Plenty Lakes Chair) and his students are continuing to develop their Lake models. David is also leading a group focussing on options to reduce the impact of nutrient releases from the lake bed sediments. These releases are a major driver of nutrient loading and algal blooms.

The first draft of the Lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti Action Plan is to be considered by the working party at its meeting on 1 November 2006. At the same meeting focus groups will be organised to discuss the recent results of the Hamurana Diversion Proposal and the investigations into sediment remediation.

The Council at its meeting of 26 October 2006 agreed to establish a working party involving various land owner representatives to review targeted rating for the Rotorua Lakes Programme.

A Lakes Project Manager is soon to be appointed to ensure the various project actions are implemented. With the Ohau Wall and other actions being put in place the level of activity around the Lakes is increasing rapidly requiring additional resourcing.

I look forward to catching up with the various community groups this summer.

- Paul Dell, Lakes Project Coordinator



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As the weather is getting cooler the house sales at the Lake appear to be warming up. During the autumn months I have sold a property on an average every three weeks, with no sign of this slowing down. As I only sell Lake Properties on Rotoiti, Rotoehu, Rotoma and Rotorua, I have a firm finger on the pulse of the market. If you would like a free appraisal of your property phone me now.

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Lake Structure Information Pack

You may have received a "Lake Structure Information Pack" from RDC to obtain a resource consent in retrospect for your lake structure, such as a jetty, ramp, slipway, boat shed or mooring. In the past these have been controlled under Council's licensing regime and all former licensees were written to advising of the changes afoot.

Lake Rotoiti is the last lake to receive retrospective resource consents applications from RDC.

The issue of obtaining a resource consent can raise concern as people can be apprehensive about what it may entail. However Environment Bay of Plenty and RDC have taken steps to ensure that it is a relatively simple process if you have held a licence for your structure in the past. If you have not yet received any information from RDC on obtaining a resource consent in retrospect you should expect some information soon.

EnvBOP and RDC have obtained the necessary approvals for these structures for a term of 10 years. In that time EnvBOP will be working on policy in the Regional Water and Land Plan to determine guidance on how structures on the Rotorua lakes should be dealt with at the end of that term. This policy will of course be subject to full public consultation and will reflect the feedback and aspirations of the community.

Structures that have not held any licence in the past (and there has been no contact with RDC to seek further advice in regards to such) will not be dealt with until Environment Bay of Plenty has taken back the responsibilities for consenting. Presently no decisions have been made on how these will be handled. However, whatever decision is made will be subject to approval by relevant landowners and affected parties. EnvBOP will discuss the proposed approach with the Lake Ratepayer groups as part of its development. To date all parties have been pragmatic in the handling of resource consent issues for these lake structures and it is likely that this will continue.

For more information about resource consent requirements for a structure contact Sherryn Owen at RDC.

Sewerage Scheme Updates

Okere Falls/Otaramarae/Whangamarino

The preliminary design of the scheme was presented to the community on 12 April 2006 with feedback invited on whether the Council should proceed with its implementation. Council received an overwhelming support to proceed with the planned community sewerage scheme.

As part of its continuous improvement and due diligence process, the Council reviewed possible alternatives to the originally proposed combination of gravity system/low pressure grinder pump system for the community. The review was triggered in part by experience in the just completed Mourea/Okawa Bay sewerage scheme.

The review revealed that the installation of low pressures grinder pump systems to service the entire community is the best option for the community for the following reasons:

- Considerable savings in capital cost when compared with gravity system
- Reduced impact during construction work
- Reduced individual connection cost
- Elimination of storm water infiltration into the sewer system reducing pumping cost

A cut out display Low Pressure Grinder Pump Systems can be viewed at the ground floor foyer of the Council Administration Building on Haupapa Street.

Council will be sending out pamphlets detailing the proposed change. A public meeting has also been scheduled on 28 November 2006 at 7.00pm at the Pikiaro Rugby Club. After the meeting and as part of the consultation process, the community will be asked to submit feedback regarding the proposed change.

Gisborne Point/Hinehopu and Rotoma

Preliminary investigation is underway to identify possible sites for a proposal wastewater treatment and disposal facility that will service the above communities.

Consultation regarding the proposed sewer servicing options for Gisborne Point/Hinehopu is programmed to commence next year.

For more information regarding the proposed schemes please contact Greg Manzano on 07-3484199.

Party Time in Mourea/Okawa Bay

After untold years in gestation, the Mourea/Okawa Bay sewerage scheme has finally come into existence. The reticulation pipes have been laid, the eastern trunk main has been completed, the whole system has been commissioned and, from May this year, residents and businesses have been decommissioning their old septic tanks and connecting to the new scheme.

On the 3rd July, an official opening, complete with ribbon cutting, was held by RDC adjacent to the pumping station in Ngareta Road. Mayor Kevin Winters, EBOP chair John Cronin, Rotorua MP Steve Chadwick, RDC & EBOP Councillors, Fulton Hogan contractors and a large number from the community celebrated the occasion. All went well (apart from our chair arriving with the wrong speech notes – a quick dash back to her car saved the day) and, following the opening ceremony, Fulton Hogan hosted refreshments at the Duxton Hotel.

Together with most farmland having now been fenced off from the lake, the new sewerage scheme is now reducing the flow of nutrients into Okawa Bay and Lake Rotoiti. We believe that this, together with the Ohau diversion wall and other sewerage schemes as they come on stream, will have a major effect in relatively short time on the water quality in Lake Rotoiti. Yes, it's good news, we have turned the corner.

Our thanks to all involved. Our lake is now noticing the difference.

Regional Water and Land Plan and the Rotorua Lakes

What is the Plan for?

The plan controls discharges to rivers and streams (such as stormwater, industrial discharges, and municipal sewage plants), activities in the beds of rivers and lakes (such as structures, dredging and reclamation), water abstraction, the use of geothermal resources, and activities in wetlands. One of the plan's key goals is to manage the region's catchments in an integrated way. It sets water quality standards for rivers, streams and lakes, including Trophic Level Indices (TLIs) for each of the Rotorua lakes. Action Plans are also being developed for each of the lakes to help achieve their TLIs.

Rules 7, 8, 9 – stock in waterbodies

These rules make it illegal for stock to enter the Rotorua lakes and the Ohau Channel. If you want your stock to access or cross the streams and rivers in the catchments of the lakes you need resource consent, unless there is an Environmental Programme (EP) for the property. These rules will be operative early 2007.

'Rule 11' – nutrient loss

'Rule 11' addresses the loss of nitrogen and phosphorus from land use activities in the catchments of Lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti, Okareka, Okaro, and Rotoehu. 'Rule 11' became operative in October 2005.

Properties must have a nutrient benchmark if they are:

- in the catchments of Lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti, Okareka, Okaro, or Rotoehu, and
- outside urban areas, and
- larger than 0.4 hectares.

Environment Bay of Plenty is currently making sure nutrient benchmarks are set for these properties. Any land use activities (including changes to the way you use the land) can not cause the nutrient loss to exceed the nutrient benchmark – unless resource consent is obtained.

Lakes structures variation update

In August Environment Bay of Plenty released Draft Variation 2 (Structures) for public comment. This variation to the plan included some new policies to manage structures on lakes, and other new rules for structures in streams and rivers. Concerns about the effects on lake structures were expressed at a public meeting in Rotorua in September. As a result, Council decided to split the draft variation into two parts -non-lake and lake-related provisions. Draft Variation 2 will now only include non-lake provisions.

Lake structures provisions will be discussed again, and developed with stakeholders, including representatives from residents and ratepayers groups. This will become a separate plan variation. We hope to release this variation in mid to late 2007 as a draft for public comment and consultation.

The Regional Water and Land Plan is available on Environment Bay of Plenty's website – www.envbop.govt.nz (check under 'Plans').

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North Ward Councillors Reports

Russell Judd

Greetings everyone.

Thank you once again for an opportunity to share some thoughts in your Christmas edition. Firstly I have some great personal news. Some of you may know that I am no longer single, as I married Michaela in October, and am looking forward to spending my first Christmas with her family. It's an exciting time of life for us, and many will be pleased that I have someone extra to bounce my ideas off before public release.

Christmas is a time for much consumption and high living for many of us. I know that I am prone to producing many more empty bottles (for example) than I do usually. Because I have always spent Christmas outside of Rotorua with family I generally have little concern with what I should do with all my empty bottles etc, as virtually every city and town I have lived or been in has a kerbside recycling collection system. All I have to do is cast my empties into the recycling bin that will be picked up from my gate rather than into the rubbish. Even at my Uncle and Aunties farm in Waverly (40 minutes from Wanganui) a truck comes by every Monday to collect the recycling bins from the 100 or so residents in their town.

However this year I will once again feel sorry for all the residents of Rotorua as they weigh up the dilemma between conveniently throwing their recyclables into the rubbish bag, destined for the landfill, or inconveniently separating and storing, then packing and carting recyclables to the city drop in centre where they will probably spend half an hour.

In my view this recycling dilemma continues because of two reasons. Firstly some within council and staff believe that because Rotorua has a low cost landfill (owned by RDC) it is far more economically efficient for Rotorua to continue allowing residents to do as we always have. A holistic approach would factor in the personal costs ratepayers are subjected to in storing and delivering their recycling, and the long term problems that landfills create. The second is that, as far as I know, I am the only councillor that has lived outside of Rotorua District (in the last 15 years) for extended periods, long enough to experience the convenience of kerbside recycling elsewhere. That may be why 92% of residents I randomly phone surveyed want kerbside, yet we still don't have it.

This leads me to the second point I would like to make. Next year is election year. Please keep note of the issues

such as recycling, targeted rates and user pays, land use and water quality so you can make a vote after your own heart. I would sincerely like to see several members of the Rotoiti and Okareka groups stand for council next year to help progress your "lakeside" views faster.

Finally, after visiting Thailand recently I still believe our Lakes District to be one of the most spectacular places to live and play in the world!

Have a great Christmas and enjoy our beautiful region.



Charles Sturt

Greetings to everyone in the Lake Rotoiti Area. Denise joins me, along with our family in wishing you all a wonderful festive season and a hope that you have quality time with friends and family in your special part of Rotorua and New Zealand.

Challenges Ahead

We will shortly be able to present for submissions the results of the extensive work we have all done over the Rates Review. Looking at capital rating, targeted rates, user pays, a combination of deleting and retaining differentials, the urban fence, fixed charges for services etc etc. My desire is that these be presented as options with all the effects being explained. The leadership that your Ratepayers Assn. has already demonstrated has been of great value. The questions we must ask ourselves is what should council's level of service be in each of the activities council currently provides or intends to provide in the future. Who will benefit and is there a social price the whole community must pay in order that some services are actually provided? The words of Cr Searancke who always states that rates are never fair is no comfort to Lakeside people who continually pay more and more because of the high land values and yet whose access to services is far less than those in the urban areas. Well we will have to agree to disagree with Cr Searancke. In some ways I do hope the district wide system does come in as some councillors need to be held accountable for their actions in certain parts of the district. We will see!!

Some of the issues involved are what do we do with Tourism Rotorua, Castlecorp, Library, Pensioner Housing, Airport, Dog Control, Convention Centre and the list goes on and on. In the past we have gone through each Council cost centre and determined the Private and Community

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Good for each service. For example, is it important to the whole community that Council has an effective Dog Control Unit. If it does who benefits if the service is at a high level. Then who should pay. Should dog owners pay 100% of the Dog Control Cost because those that have a dog surely are the ones who create the costs. It is those that don't pay now for registration and have their dogs picked up, whose dogs breed endlessly and attack people, etc. Contrary to one councillor's belief Council does not run a cost plus system. Never has and never will.

So if it was complete user pay or dog owner pay would the problems as outlined go away??? This is just one example of the issues we have to grapple with. Another is Castlecorp. It is interesting that those Councils who followed forming LATES or contracted out all the rubbish, street work, Drainage, Water etc are now regretting it and look at the shambles in Auckland with metro water. If it is privatised the private company adds on its cost in a business way and puts a margin on. Like some of the private rubbish people who operate in town now. Incidentally having lived in the country for many many years, it astounded me that on rubbish day Council trucks are joined by waste management trucks who pick up the green wheely bins on the same day. So privatising doesn't always give the council and the ratepayers the best value for money. Our rubbish collection costs and the landfill charges are amongst the lowest in NZ. Ask the people of Tauranga and Hamilton how much their rubbish collection is. I believe we all get value for money from Castlecorp. Another issue with rubbish was we had to close the Hinehopu site which as well as being an eyesore and dump site (free) to everyone within and outside of the Rotorua Districts, was also costing \$250,000 per year to collect all the rubbish. The challenge is to find a suitable site like the one at Okere Falls. The Indiscriminate dumping of rubbish is disgusting in the Rotorua district and who pays? You and I as we get complaints saying the district and in particular the rural areas are becoming an eyesore. Dumping of derelict cars is growing also. Any Ideas would be welcome. Recycling is the answer but how does one get total buy in.

District Plan

The District Plan which will address what can and can't happen in parts of Rotorua is up for review starting March 2007. This is a major job for all concerned in including major Stakeholders, It is a statutory legal requirement and with the Bright economy Board, ratepayers groups, major land holders and EBOP will determine the growth of Rotorua, the long term needs for more infrastructure, transport, roading sewerage etc etc. We luckily will be led ably by Cr Maureen Waaka who will chair the development of a vibrant futuristic plan.

I again want to pay tribute to Sally Brock and the team for the hours of work in the 2006 year. Your efforts are appreciated and while sometimes we have to agree to disagree we have a strong working relationship which is the envy of many other Local Authorities. RDC will appeal the findings of EBOP to reduce their representation and I did our Council's submission and was astounded again that Cr Cleghorn not only supported the reduction but the Maori seats being reduced also. I must also pay tribute to Mayor Kevin Winters for his efforts in representing the RDC, with my blessing as a fellow member of the Lakes Strategy Committee, when he visited the Government Officials and Finance Minister Cullen recently. This

From Your MP . . .

We are on a roll as a community to collectively contribute to all programmes that will contribute to the long-term health of the Lakes water.

I convinced my colleagues in Wellington of the need to meet the Mayor, Chair of E.B.O.P., L.W.Q.S and Te Arawa with the Ministers of the Environment, Finance, and LINZ present. The only Minister unable to attend was the Minister of Health. This was a very positive meeting that resulted in the Minister of Finance agreeing that a Memorandum of Understanding be drafted between all parties to agree a process of "joined up" funding of future capital projects that will need government as well as Ratepayer funding support.

The Minister for the Environment is coming to Rotorua at the end of this month to announce the way forward between all parties involved in the fix up. This approach is unprecedented and I feel enormous support from my Labour cabinet colleagues. This is sustainable development in action. We have accepted that the quality of the lakes water needs to be remedied over time and that only by working collaboratively will the community of Rotorua, the wider region and the country continue to benefit from the value of our Lakes as icons of New Zealand.

This, along with the signing of the Te Arawa Lakes Ownership Agreement last month are positive signs of us all moving out of grievance mode and into finding durable solutions of the Lakes for the whole community.

*Kind regards,
Steve Chadwick.*

meeting was to advise Government that Rotorua and EBOP ratepayers cannot financially commit any more contribution to Lakeside Sewerage schemes without considerable govt input. The issues of Land change must also be addressed sooner rather than later and EBOP must lead the way here. We can no longer allow copious volumes of Nitrogen and Phosphate to leach and enter Lake Rotorua and surrounding lakes at will. Land use practices must change and it heartening to read of the Landcare Trust and their effort in this matter with Environmental solutions. I look forward to their input in the future also.

I went down to the Trout Pools with my boys recently and Big Ups to those involved in your Community.

See you all at the AGM in January 2007

Have a Great New Year.

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Message from the Harbour Masters Office

Well, all of a sudden before we know it Christmas will be upon us. Pressure on our Lakes has been increasing steadily since Opening Day and Labour Weekend, and the silly season is nearly here. For us all this means heavy use of our Lakes and with that we may witness a small minority of the boating public who display a lack of courtesy and understanding toward other users and the Regional Bylaws. Whilst we would prefer to educate the boating public, breaches of the Bay of Plenty Regional Navigation and Safety Bylaws that endanger safety and lives, will be subject to the instant fine regime. Skippers in this category will now not only be a danger to their friends, families, vessel and other lake users, but also to their pockets.

Remember the Rotorua Lakes can become very crowded. Vigilance is required to avoid collisions or accidents.

The following is some safety information to remember and pass on to your families, visitors, friends and neighbours; and any inconsiderate Lake users you may encounter!

- There is a 200 metre strip around all of our Lakes which is restricted to 5 knots: **Do not exceed 5 knots within 200 metres of shore**
- Skiing from shore may only be done from a ski access lane: **You must use a ski lane when skiing from shore**
- Skiing is a 3 person sport: **You must carry an observer**
- Life Jackets save lives: **Wear them at all times**
- Watch and know the weather: **Rotorua Lakes can change very quickly and become dangerous places to be**
- Don't be complacent: **It is foolish to believe Lake waters are safer than the sea**

Ten golden rules for Safe Boating

- Watch and know the weather forecast
- Don't Overload
- Carry all necessary equipment including warm clothing
- Wear tested life jackets
- Ensure your machinery is reliable, especially at the season's start
- Know the collision rules, distress signals, and read the Lake Information signs
- Carry fire extinguishers and guard against fire
- Don't mix drinking and boating
- Carry reserve fuel
- Always tell someone where you are going and when you will be returning

Further information can be sought from the Rotorua District Harbour Master, Environment Bay of Plenty; by calling 0800 368 267, or the Duty Officer on 07 921 3375.

Preparation and Preparedness are keys to safe boating. Please ensure you refer to the above information and familiarise yourself with the Essential Equipment List. It is a great start to achieving Safety and Confidence whilst afloat.

Yours in Boating

Andrew Lang, Harbour Master



REDUCING NUTRIENT INPUTS INTO LAKES ROTORUA & ROTOITI

With the granting of resource consent for the Okere Falls Diversion wall, attention must start to turn towards addressing the long term solutions to reduce the ongoing nutrient inputs into Lakes Rotoiti and especially Rotorua. There is no easy fix, and community groups are very aware that a debate must be started on the methods needed to reduce nutrient inputs into the system to a sustainable level.

The Lakes Water Quality Society is committed to getting this debate underway, and is submitting this proposal to Council as one possible way of achieving the level of reduction required to save our lakes. The proposal has been abridged for inclusion in this newsletter; please contact LWQS for further details.

Proposal For Nutrient Reductions In Lakes Rotorua & Rotoiti By Land Use Change:

The improvement of lake water quality in Lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti by the elimination of a significant volume of source nutrients from the ground water is essential if the vision of the Lakes Water Quality Society is to be achieved.

The proposal is summarised as follows:

- Much work is being proposed within the lakes to reduce their nutrient load and allow a relatively quick improvement in the TLIs.
- Until nutrients entering the lake are dramatically reduced continuing in-lake treatment to remove nutrients from lake water will be required.
- Improvement in farming practises will not achieve the required reduction without substantial retirement.
- This could be achieved with the retirement of farming land by offering Tradable Subdivisional Rights (TSR) within the catchment. Each subdivisional right would be for 10ha of dairying land.
- It will mean subdivision will not be permitted within the Rural Zones without the required TSR. Other than the requirements of sewerage and standard RDC requirements no other restrictions are anticipated.
- This will likely lead to rural residential subdivision in the proximity of the lakes, where there are good views and in bush.
- The annual nutrient input of a 1ha lakeside residential property is approximately 10 kg of N, this contrasts with 10 ha of dairy land contributing 400kg of N.
- This will greatly assist in the restoration of the Lakes without the requirement of public funding.
- Growth of the permanent population within the District is essential and promotion of the District is critical.
- An increase in economic activity and wealth of the District can be anticipated.

Lake Rotorua's Nutrient Budget and Catchment:

As provided to the Focus Group on 31 May 2006, the following nutrient target reductions for Lake Rotorua and its catchment was presented.

Target Reductions – Rotorua Rotoiti Action Plan

2005	151t/yr N	35t/yr P
2050	253	35
2200	339	35

Currently substantial research is being undertaken to diminish nutrient outflows from farming properties. This research includes: off farm wintering, Herd Homes, nitrogen inhibitors, fertiliser best practices and controlled overland water flows.

Even with hope and best intentions, it is unrealistic to anticipate that existing regulatory limitations and improved farming practices will bring about the required reduction in nutrient inflows needed to achieve the targets.

Clean water is an extremely valuable resource and its restoration can not be risked on unproven platforms. Even if proven it is extremely unlikely that they would be adopted in full across the entire catchment.

Both Councils need to urgently adopt a change in land use policy to achieve the desired outcomes.

Council need to vigorously pursue "in lake solutions" to provide short to medium term relief to reduce the present grossly excessive TLI

Proposal For Land Use Change:

LWQS urges Councils to adopt and include in appropriate planning documents suitable rules to allow Tradable Subdivisional Rights (TSR) associated with the retirement of pastoral land.

The principles associated with this scheme are:

- Applies to all land within the Rotorua/Rotoiti catchment within the Rural Zones
- For every 10 hectares retired from dairying or comparable area of pastoral land (on a nutrient equivalent basis) a single subdivisional right will be granted and apply anywhere in the lakes catchment.
- No other right of subdivision within the zones will be permitted
- Any new residential property will be required to provide a sewerage connection to the city scheme or a nutrient stripping OSET system
- Land retired from farming is to be utilised for exotic forestry, plantation forestry or native bush planting rural residential living and the like.

Consequences of Change:

- There are approximately 21,000 hectares of pastoral land within the catchment and with better farming practices and a minimum one third of this land being retired, the targeted objectives should be achieved.
- The key to this is to ensure that no subdivision within the catchment exists without the required retirement of land.
- The establishment of residential properties needs to be as of right across the entire catchment including land adjoining the lake and areas of higher altitude with good views of the lake and in bush.
- Under this scheme, a landowner that had desirable property could purchase more remote land in the catchment, retire it to forestry/bush and utilise those tradable rights to subdivide his rural property for residential purposes.
- To achieve the retirement of 7,000 hectares of land, 700 rural residential properties would need to be sold. Over a 10 year period this should be obtainable provided Rotorua becomes a desirable place to live in. RDC would need to actively promote the desirability of the district as a place in which to live. It has been well established through international research that where people live, if at all possible, they will invest and hence the community prospers.
- The public purchase of land is financially unachievable.
- Economic development within the District would be substantially greater than present, reference Tauranga and Taupo, and the Nimmo-Bell Ltd report.

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Rotorua VHF Marine Radio Association (Inc.)

We are an organization that broadcasts on Channel 64, an up to date marine weather forecast for the Rotorua lakes and sea areas, Coville and Bay of Plenty, three times a day. The scheduled times are 0745–0800hrs, 1245–1300hrs and 1745–1800hrs.

This broadcast is done by voluntary licensed radio operators. Members and visiting boaties are encouraged to call in at scheduled times and report what lake they are on and when they expect to be off the water. While our operators are only officially on air at scheduled times, they often maintain a listening watch, especially during busy holiday periods.

We are closely linked with Rotorua Coastguard and assist with and the Rotorua Harbour Master in emergencies on our lakes. Our service is of great benefit to boaties, as when the unthinkable happens and they breakdown we are able to get help for them quickly.

Our transmitter is at Whakapoungakou, which is between Lakes Rotorua and Okataina, with an excellent reception which is received on all of the Rotorua Lakes (except for a couple of blind spots), and we can transmit and receive in sea areas, from Whangamata to Cape Runaway.

Member's subscriptions are vital to enable us to fund this station and provide its services to members and those that have a VHF radio.

We welcome new members. Our membership fee is \$30 per year, with a nomination fee of \$25 for the first year.

*For any enquires please contact our secretary
Dave Hutchings at davehutch@xtra.co.nz
or P O Box 8000 Western Heights Rotorua
Ph 3487429 or 0272750104*



Rotorua District Council Rating Review

"In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." Benjamin Franklin 1789

In July last year, yet another rating review was introduced to Rotorua District Council as part of its 10 year plan. Over the ensuing 9 months, Council considered whether it was desirable to change from a land value to a capital value based rating system and with a view to minimise the size and number of differentials.

With rural residential ratepayers currently paying 70% of the rate struck for urban residential properties, this proposal had the potential to increase our general rates by over 40%.

As a consequence of submissions from this Society and other factors, Council resolved to take further time to evaluate the merits, mechanics, and consequences of a reviewed rating system and resolved to delay the decision until the 2007/2008 financial year.

In June this year, and in line with the "principals of consultation" advocated by the Court of Appeal in 1993 [Wellington International Airport Ltd v Air New Zealand], this Society requested Council's rating proposal at the earliest opportunity. This was to give us sufficient time to properly consider and consult with Council, and to give Council time to consider our response to the proposal and to change or start afresh if necessary.

On the 31st August, Council held a Rating Workshop which gave the community the opportunity to listen to a presentation on rating and then enabled small group discussion with Councillors and community representatives in each group. While this did not result in Council making a proposal at that time, it was nevertheless a good start in the consultation process. With both Council and the community agreeing that the workshop had been beneficial, it was signalled that another such workshop would be held as soon as possible. At the time of writing, we have just unofficially heard that the next workshop will be held on the 13th December.

We are pleased that Council is progressing with this consultation process.

However, we still await Council's rate review proposal, and we continue to look for it in sufficient time for the community to make submissions and for Council to then make changes or even start afresh if necessary. We are mindful that time is again running short with decisions to be included in next year's draft plan being made in February/March after which there is realistically no chance for further consultation.

Watch this space!

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Enrol To Vote!

Are you a Ratepayer at Rotoiti but not resident here? You can still have your say at the 2007 local body elections.

As a result of the involvement this Society has had with the proposed community board, we have become aware that there are a significant number of rateable properties in the Rotorua lakes area whose owners are not currently enrolled to vote at local body elections.

We understand there are approximately 3000 properties in the proposed community board area, but only 2528 people registered to vote. With say one and a half people average per property, we speculate that nearly half of the properties that pay rates in the area have no electoral say. We assume that most of these properties are owned by people who reside out of Rotorua.

Our Council politicians are elected by votes (on a first past the post system) and the voice of our community becomes proportionately weaker with everyone who can't or does not vote. It is evident that, as the Society consults and lobbies Council on various matters, we are up against groups and communities that represent a greater number of votes than we do and the political reality is that our Councillors react to votes.

The two big issues we currently face is the restoration of our lakes including sewerage reticulation, and Council's proposed changes to our rating system. As an example and following last year's property revaluations, some residential lakefront properties are facing rates next year of \$6,500 or more, plus EBOP rates, plus sewerage and other targeted rates as these come on stream. It is essential that we speak with the strongest possible voice to achieve a rating system that is fair and equitable to all.

Fortunately, all is not lost.

Section 24 of the Local Electoral Act 2001 provides that every person who is registered as a parliamentary elector outside the Rotorua district qualifies as a "ratepayer elector" provided that person is on the appropriate valuation roll as a ratepayer of a rating unit within the district. There are one or two further qualifications depending on individual circumstances but essentially, we understand there can only be one ratepayer elector per rateable property.

As usual in these matters, a form needs to be filled in and this can be downloaded from www.rdc.govt.nz [Type "ratepayer elector" in the search box on the home page, then click "go", then click "Enrolment form for ratepayer elector"]. Alternatively, contact us and we can mail you a form.

If you are not already on the Local Body electoral roll, we invite you to take the effort to enrol. Completion of the form won't take you too long and we believe your support in this way is necessary and will be much appreciated as we continue to work on your behalf.

How do I enrol?

If you are a ratepayer in the Rotorua area but on the electoral roll in another area, the quickest way to enrol is to contact The Electoral Officer at The Rotorua District Council ph 07-348-4199 who can check if you are eligible to register as a Ratepayer Elector and can send you the appropriate form.

A WORD FROM RICHARD

Hello all. Since we sold our Otaramarae property in September 2005 and I moved to Rotorua city I thought I would cut back on community service and have a nice quiet time, how wrong I was!

In March this year at a public meeting in Rotorua it was decided to form a lobby group, so the Rotorua District Community Association (R.D.C.A.) was born, of which I am Chairman. It has been a lot of work to get this new Association off the ground. We are extremely grateful for the help received from Sally, Brentleigh and committee of the Lake Rotoiti Community Association Inc.

I am still involved in Rotorua V.H.F. Marine Radio as a committee member and an operator Base 4.

We share many of the concerns of your Association including the restoration of Lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti. We have many concerns about the performance of the Rotorua District Council (R.D.C.). We don't understand why rates keep rising when the growth of the city is very low or nil. R.D.C. keep talking up the rates increases are amongst the lowest in the country, we think they should be a lot lower. The only thing growing is R.D.C. and it is time they reigned in their in-spending, we will be calling for at least a 5% cut in spending in all Departments. We also believe that R.D.C. should stick to the core job of running the city efficiently and get involved in commercial enterprises. There is the potential for the airport, events centre and bath house to be a huge burden to the Rotorua ratepayer.

I have recently returned from a holiday to England, Brittany in France and Singapore. While Singapore is clean, I was super impressed by the cleanliness of Brittany and the trouble local authorities go to keep it this way. The refuse and recycling centres are free and open all weekends and some week days and accept almost any kind of refuse including building materials, engine oil, batteries etc. If only the R.D.C. acted in this way and were more concerned about the cleanliness of our community rather than solely the cost factor, then illegal dumping at Okere Falls, Otaramarae, Mountain Road and other areas of our district would be significantly reduced.

Also impressive in Brittany was the grooming of beaches and clearing of seaweed in the mornings, the wide use of plastic lined rubbish and recycling bins which are emptied everyday and several times at weekends. I would like to see R.D.C. make our refuse centres more affordable and easier to use and have more rubbish bins at our Lakes and tourist areas emptied daily at busy times. I'm sure with these measures in place residents and visitors to the Rotorua area would take a lot more pride in the appearance of the city and district unlike some of the filthy reserves and beaches I've seen recently.

I had a wonderful holiday, superb weather, highlights were Brittany, wonderful shops in the old city of Vannes, the old city of Saint Malo was very interesting as well, the night safari park at Singapore – a truly magnificent experience to see a wide range of nocturnal animals in a wonderfully run attraction.

Please support your Association; they do a great job in representing their members and the community.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Richard Wilson

The Rotorua Lakes Recreation Strategy

The Rotorua Lakes Recreation Strategy is a policy document to help manage lake recreation, first published in February 2006. It was required under the Strategy for the Lakes of the Rotorua District (August 2000) as a joint project between Rotorua District Council, Environment Bay of Plenty and Te Arawa Maori Trust Board. Lake Rotoiti Community Association representatives also had input to the Strategy.

The Strategy guides lake recreation management in two ways. The first is through a Recreational Opportunities Spectrum. This categorises lake areas by the recreation and management policies that are appropriate to each area. The four categories are:

- The Landing
- Front Country Accessible
- Back Country Accessible
- Remote.

The Strategy does not have rules that lake users or lake managers must follow. It has policy to help lake managers make decisions about road access points, lake structures, navigation aids, signs, etc., for each of the four categories. Lake Rotoiti is zoned as a mix of Front Country Accessible and Back Country Accessible. Front Country Accessible areas have good road access, and are near to settlement areas. Back Country Accessible areas are still accessible by boat, but are further away from road access points or settlement areas, so lake use in these areas is usually less intensive. The second part of the Strategy is a summary of three specific lake management issues, and seven management actions to address them. These are:

1. Public access to the Rotorua Lakes
 - Complete a Rotorua Lakes Access Inventory
 - Monitor motorised craft on the lakes
2. Sign communication, education and interpretation
 - Development of coordinated sign panels
 - The recreation map
 - Provision of interpretative material by Te Arawa
 - Public Communication and awareness
3. Working together
 - Establish a Rotorua Lakes Recreation Forum

The strategy can be downloaded from Environment Bay of Plenty's www.envbop.govt.nz website.

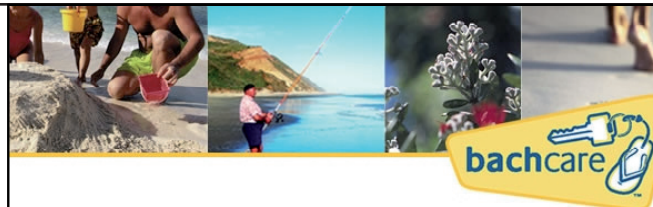
Bachcare extends services throughout Lake Rotoiti

- So you own a bach, but it sits empty for most of the year? Want to earn a bit of money from your investment? Or, just want to get a bit more enjoyment out of your holiday home?
- There is a way!! Bachcare services are now available to owners and renters throughout Lake Rotoiti.
- Bachcare is a leading national holiday home management and rental company. Bachcare has been founded by holiday home owners, so we really do understand your needs and concerns! As finalist in the prestigious NZ Tourism Awards 2006, we are committed to an awesome service experience for our owners and our renters.
- We have local bach-managers on the ground in Gisborne Point and Okere Falls to service any holiday home need that you may have.

We have **unmet rental demand** for the summer holidays. If you aren't using your house during those key weeks, please *urgently* get in touch with us! We can assist you to rent it out, to the appropriate renters, at the appropriate rental rates providing you some extra cash!

Renting not for you? If you can't be bothered cleaning the house, tending to the lawns and gardens, or organise the plumber or electrician, Bachcare can assist. Our Lake Rotoiti bach-managers can help ease your pressures and give you back your time. Alarm activations, storm checks, letting friends and family in, spring cleans.

Bachcare is your trusted neighbour; your eyes and ears on the ground when you can't be there; your business partner to earn you a return.



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The Lake Rotoiti Classic and Wooden Boat Association

The A.G.M. was held on the 17th June at the Okere Falls Fire station. We are now officially an incorporated society, which reflects the growth and status of The Classic & Wooden Boat Assoc.

A committee meeting was held in August 06 to which we invited representatives from The Coastguard & V.H.F. radio to address us.

Sue Jenkins explained the history and operations of V.H.F. RADIO which operates on Channels 64 & 86...It is largely operated by volunteers and funding is sourced from \$30 Subscriptions and new members are most welcome.

Murray Jenkins from The Coast guard spoke of how an informal organization had grown to become a formal branch of the Central Eastern Region of Coastguard New Zealand. Two specifically designed rescue craft are already available for use on all the Rotorua Lakes. Anyone requiring assistance must initially contact the local Police. The Association made a donation of \$150 to the Coastguard.

The next Classic & Wooden Boats committee meeting is to be on the 18th November followed by a planned launching of 2 new boats at Allan Clark's at 11.30.a.m. All members are welcome to this event. Weather permitting a B.B.Q tea is also planned at Hot Water Beach. All welcome but bring your own food & drinks.

Over the winter months an enthusiastic group of volunteers have helped to beautify the Okere Falls area with weed clearing and new plantings of native trees & shrubs. Also on-going weed spraying and gorse clearance has been done on some of our Rotoiti Beaches.

During Labour Weekend an Annual Fishing Contest was held with some 70 entries and over 18 trout weighed in, this being triple last year's tally. Our thanks to Brian & Faye Stamp for again ably judging the trout on weight and condition factor. Chris Currie weighed in the heaviest fish @ 7lbs. Joan Braken weighed in a trout with a condition factor of 59...and 5lb 6ozs and Ruby Lee also weighed in a trout of 5lb 6ozs.

Also many thanks to Bill and Cherie Fowler for again hosting this years function, Prize giving, Social sausage sizzle and "tall tales" in their lakeside boatshed. On display was their latest Wooden Boat nearing completion after many hours of restoration work. We are all looking forward to having 'her' join the increasing number of classic boats on Lake Rotoiti.



PLANNED EVENTS FOR 2007.

JAN 1st..An evening cruise of light decorated boats.

JAN 2nd..Classic Yacht Regatta

FEB..2nd.Nibbles & Drinks ..mix & mingle for members.

FEB..3rd..Annual Classic & Wooden Regatta.

FEB..4th..classic Seagull outboard races.

APRIL 13th..Boat Poker Rally & B.B.Q.

For any further information contact Buzz Rathbone
...Commodore...073624240.

A 2007 Calendar depicting 12 of Lake Rotoiti's Classic Boats is FOR SALE @ \$20.00. Contact Nigel Brock 0736264764 if you wish to purchase one.

- Buzz Rathbone Commodore

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OSET: Who is affected by the New Plan

If you live in a Rotorua Lakes catchment, and have an on-site effluent treatment system that discharges up to 2 m³/day to land, you will be affected by the new OSET plan. How you are affected will depend on both the type of system (conventional septic tank or advanced system) you have and where you live. Details of the plan are available from ENVBOP or on their website www.envbop.govt.nz.

Environment Bay of Plenty has a list of some advanced systems available in New Zealand, whose manufacturers' specifications meet the discharge limits for biochemical oxygen demand and suspended solids set by the plan. These specifications and those for nitrogen reduction are being examined in a trial that is testing advanced systems under Rotorua conditions. The results of these trials will be available end 2006, and will be posted on ENVBOP's website www.envbop.govt.nz.

The plan looks at three areas in the catchments:

1 Specified lake communities

This applies to on-site effluent treatment systems in the lake communities of Brunswick, Rotokawa, Hamurana, Okawa Bay, Mourea, Okere Falls, Otaramarae, Gisborne Point, Hinehopu, Rotoma, Okareka and Tarawera.

Reticulation

These communities will be reticulated by the following dates.

Lake	Community	Date
Rotorua	Brunswick, Rotokawa	1 December 2010
Rotorua	Hamurana	1 December 2014
Rotoiti	Okawa Bay/Mourea, Okere Falls, Otaramarae, Gisborne Point, Hinehopu	1 December 2010
Rotoma	Rotoma	1 December 2014
Okareka	Okareka	1 December 2010
Tarawera	Tarawera	1 December 2014

- If reticulation is available, or becomes available, you must connect to it. Under the Local Government Act you must connect to a reticulated system if reticulation is within 30 m of the property boundary or within 60 m of any dwelling.
- By 1 December 2010 or 1 December 2014 (whichever is relevant) all systems must be able to comply with the permitted rule for on-site effluent treatment systems. The discharge must reduce the total nitrogen to 15 g/m³ or less, reduce the biochemical oxygen demand to 30 g/m³ or less, and reduce suspended solids to 45 g/m³ or less.
- If you cannot comply with the permitted rule you will need to apply for resource consent from us.

Conventional on-site effluent treatment systems

- These are also subject to a maintenance and performance inspection and certification programme until 1 December 2010 or 1 December 2014 (see table above). The communities will be reticulated by this date.
- The community of Rotoma is subject to the first round of inspections and septic tank pump-outs which must be completed by 1 December 2006.
- Please contact Environment Bay of Plenty for confirmation of details.

2 Within 200 m from a lake edge (but outside of the communities specified in 1)

This applies to on-site effluent treatment systems within 200 m from the edge of lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti, Rotoehu, Rotoma, Rotokawau, Okataina, Okareka, Tikitapu, Rotokakahi, Okaro and Rerewhakaaitu

- At 1 December 2010 you must be able to comply with the permitted rule for on-site effluent treatment systems. The discharge must reduce the total nitrogen to 15 g/m³ or less, reduce the biochemical oxygen demand to 30 g/m³ or less, and reduce suspended solids to 45 g/m³ or less.
- If you cannot comply with the permitted rule you will need to apply for resource consent from us.

Conventional on-site-effluent treatment systems:

- Are also subject to a maintenance and performance inspection and certification programme. The first round of inspections and septic tank pump-outs must be completed by 1 December 2006.

3 Sections 2 ha or smaller on one property title, where there is at least one treatment system

This rule applies to the lake catchments of Rotorua*, Rotoiti, Rotoehu, Okareka and Okaro, but not to the Haumurana area that will be reticulated.

- At 1 December 2010 you must be able to comply with the permitted rule for on-site effluent treatment systems. The discharge must reduce the total nitrogen to 15 g/m³ or less, reduce the biochemical oxygen demand to 30 g/m³ or less, and reduce suspended solids to 45 g/m³ or less.
- If you cannot comply with the permitted rule you will need to apply for resource consent from us.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the LRRRA and the Inaugural Annual General Meeting of the Lake Rotoiti Community Association Inc.

Held on 8 January 2006 at the Pikiaro Rugby League Club

1. Present

Sally Brock (Chair), Nigel Brock, Phill Thomass, Geoff Turner, Steve Howard, Glenda Simpson, John Green, Bill Kingi (Committee Members), Paul Dell (EBOP), C Sturt (RDC), S Chadwick (MP), Jack Shallard (RDC), Russell Judd (RDC), Trevor Maxwell (RDC), Cliff Lee (RDC), Bob Martin (RDC), Tai Eru (EBOP), Ian Noble, Neil Oppatt, Ian McLean (LWQS), Phil Alley (DOC), Ron Marsden (Chair Combined Lakes), Rt Hon Paul East, Lindsay Brighthouse (Life Member), John Cronin (EBOP). And 105 Members.

2. Karakia

Tai Eru opened the meeting with a Karakia.

3. Apologies

W Emery, B Bond, S Bennett, Kevin Winters, Bob and Cynthia Armstrong, Judy and Ewan Gregor, Stuart Searle, Sir Gavin Donne, Grant and Jillian Cossey, Maureen Waaka, John Mace, Nico Classen, Mike McVicker, Ivan Thompson.

Resolved apologies be accepted. Sally Brock/Geoff Turner.

4. Minutes of Last Year's Meeting

(a) Bob Armstrong pointed out by letter that item 11(b) should have included the words "of State Highway 30 and State Highway 33" to be inserted after work "junction".

(b) Charles Sturt was present at the meeting but his name was omitted.

(c) Resolved that last year's minutes as amended be accepted as a true and correct record. Sally Brock/Phill Thomass.

5. Matters Arising

(a) Mourea Water Supply Ex-Brunswick

Stuart Searle sent an email advising that Glenys Searancke was correct in stating the Brunswick pipeline is a private supply from Coulson Road to Brunswick but was installed with the view that it would have the capacity to be able to serve Mourea and beyond and that Council had been advised that they could take over the line for any use they required provided they contributed a portion of the cost of its installation, which offer is still open.

Sally Brock advised that a water strategy for the whole Rotorua basin was being prepared and the Okere, Otaramarae, Okawa Bay and Mourea areas will be included in this.

Jim Stanton noted that while the Brunswick line is a private supply, the supply of water is a territorial matter as the water within the pipe comes from the district.

Charles Sturt agreed, but acknowledged the infrastructure was privately owned.

Mary Stanton outlined how a water supply for Mourea has been fought for, for over 15 years and reiterated that Mourea desperately needs a supply in order to progress and that the ultimate responsibility lies with the Council for the supply of that water.

Fred Whata endorsed Mary and Jim Stanton's comments and said the RDC should be well aware of how long the district had been fighting for water.

Bob Martin related how RDC had tried to get the numbers to proceed and had spent \$130,000 on investigations. He assured the meeting that it is not off RDC's agenda,

but without the supporting numbers it is difficult. He commented that the RDC hadn't realised that one person at the last major meeting represented 20 people and assured the meeting that the Mourea water supply is definitely not off the agenda of the RDC and it recognises that the issue has to be progressed.

(b) Elizabeth Miller asked for an update in relation to Te Akau Road mentioned in last year's minutes under 3(h). Sally Brock advised that Peter Dine of RDC had recently corresponded to say that Te Akau Road is not programmed to be resealed. It was last sealed in 1995 and the light traffic loading meant it will last another 3 to 4 years. Sally Brock informed the meeting that a geotechnical report had been done and was attached to property files. Lindsay Brighthouse noted the problem is that the road is far too narrow, and that it was never designed to deal with current traffic. It was continuing to narrow further from ingress of the grass verges creeping in.

Elizabeth Miller confirmed Lindsay's view that the road has become narrower. Nick Miller said one of the reasons for the road becoming narrower is that the mower flail disturbs the soil on the banks causing it to subside.

(c) Gisborne Point Footpath

Sally noted that Castle Corp have been maintaining and upgrading the existing tar seal walkway but that the RDC advises that concrete footpath is not possible as to construct one would need construction of some retaining walls.

Peter Carr Smith said that as long as the current tar seal walkway is properly maintained then it serves the purpose for which it was designed.

(d) Gisborne Point Jetty/Boat Ramp

Sally reported that she is in discussions with the RDC as to the possibility of the second boat ramp, being upgraded to cope with the numbers who launch there.

6. Chairperson's Report

Sally Brock spoke to her full report published in the newsletter.

(a) She outlined the significant issue of the Ohau Channel Diversion and reported she was confident the three objections to the resource consent grant could be overcome. She acknowledged the great efforts of EBOP, RDC, Te Arawa, LWQS, The Lakes working party, the LRRRA, Paul Dell and Professor David Hamilton. She said the LRRRA's role is now to ensure the wall is implemented as quickly as possible, and to assess and push for further action to be taken as necessary.

(b) She outlined the activities of the Lake Rotoiti Care Group and the efforts the working bees around the lake margins had achieved. She invited volunteers to provide their name and contact details to her for advice as to future working bees.

(c) She outlined the efforts of the Combined Lakes Ratepayers Group to form a Community Board following rejection by the RDC of their proposal and advised that this decision has been appealed to the Local Government Commission.

(d) Rating – She advised of Council's possible intentions as to a change in the method of assessment of rates including a possible change from the Land Value based rating system

to a Capital Value system. The current 70% differential that currently exists between residential and rural residential is also under review. She believed the removal of the differential would be unfair to Lakes Ratepayers and needs a concerted effort to resist a change. Sally reported that Jim Stanton had been co-opted to assist in the consultation process with Council and the preparation of submissions to their plans once promulgated.

(e) She advised of EBOP's proposal to introduce targeted rates to help fund the Rotorua Lakes Restoration Program, pest management work and passenger transport this year. Residential and commercial properties would be charged a set rate throughout the whole district. Larger properties will be charged at a rate related to the level of nutrient that a land produces. In other words polluter pays.

(f) Rubbish – She noted that Rubbish is collected on Monday morning with the only exception being Christmas Day. Those who rent their properties please ensure tenants are aware of this.

Fish & Game Report

The 2006-07 season started well on October 1 with Fish & Game staff and helpers interviewing over 430 anglers fishing on Rotoiti. This was the highest number of contacts for many years and shows that the Lake Rotoiti fishery is popular and the great fish are attracting more anglers back to the lake.

A total of 380 fish were measured and weighed at the ramps and on the lake and the signs for the 2006-07 season are very promising. A quick comparison of catch rates showed more fish measured per angler than we have seen for the last three seasons and this will be due in part to a large number of fish released during the September 2005 liberation.

The other major player with catch rates is the conditions on the day and the light northerly and cloudy conditions appeared to help out. The 2-year-old trout that were released in September 2005 (at one year of age) at a size averaging 19cm, were caught averaging around 53cm and 2kg. This growth is the same as that seen from the previous year and matches the best seen over the last 14 years in the lake.

The 2005 May release were released at 17cm and by October 2006 were coming back at around 58cm, again a very good size for the coming summer. The Lake Rotoiti fish were larger than those from Tarawera and Okataina although these two lakes had shown an improvement on the previous two Opening Day catches.

Residents should expect Lake Rotoiti to again be popular this summer as anglers take advantage of the excellent trout growth we have seen in the lake over the last three seasons. Hopefully the predicted El Nino conditions will keep the blooms away, but this will mean wind and so it will be important to grab any chance you can get. We hope the locals and visiting anglers alike have an excellent summer on the lake and enjoy the fishing Rotoiti has to offer.

Fish & Game staff will be conducting surveys on the lake over the whole summer so we will see you on the water.

Rob Pitkethley, Senior Fish & Game Officer.

(g) She noted that users of the lake continue to disregard the 5 knot speed restriction and advised that the Association will be involved with the newly created Lakes Recreation Forum at which this issue will be addressed.

Resolved that her report be accepted. Sally Brock/John Green.

7. Financial Statement

John Green presented the financial statement on behalf of Brentleigh Bond who was absent on holiday and noted that it had been audited by Ivan Thompson. He pointed out that the newsletter costs included not only this year's cost but also last years and was therefore not as high as it appears.

Resolved to accept the financial report. John Green/Sally Brock.

8. Auditor

Resolved to reappoint Ivan Thompson as the auditor and that he be sincerely thanked for his past services. Sally Brock/Phill Thomass.

9. Committee

Nominations for the Committee were received from Sally Brock, Nigel Brock, Brentleigh Bond, John Green, Phill Thomass, Geoff Turner, Steve Howard, Bill Kingi and Willie Emery, and absent any other nominations, those persons were elected to the Committee.

10. LRCA

The meeting was advised that in line with advice at last year's AGM, the Lake Rotoiti Community Association (Incorporated) had been implemented with the IRD granting charitable status.

As the name was different from that indicated at last year's meeting further approvals were sought to:

(a) Wind up the LRRRA.

(b) Pay all its debts and liabilities.

(c) After payment of its debts and liabilities to transfer its assets and pay any surplus funds to the new Lake Rotoiti Community Association Inc.

Some discussion followed as to the name change but it was generally agreed this was not detrimental given that the prime focus of the new association would continue to be as in the past with the prime function being to represent the interests of residents and ratepayers.

Resolved as to (a), (b) and (c) above - Geoff Turner/Sally Brock.

The meeting then resolved to elect as the committee of the Lake Rotoiti Community Association Incorporated the same members as had been previously elected to the committee of the LRRRA. Turner/Brock.

11. Lakes Water Quality Society

Ian McLean addressed the meeting and congratulated Sally on her sterling efforts over the last 12 months. He outlined the future critical task of funding the \$200 million cost for the lakes restoration and how this is to be shared. He advised that the Lake Water Quality Society is holding a symposium on 6 and 7 March 2006 at the Park Heritage Hotel in Rotorua and urged members to attend as this meeting will include a discussion on how much central government and how much the region is to pay. He outlined the speakers and noted that EBOP has limited resources to put into project management but is working very hard within current allocations. Important science and technology questions remain.

He noted one of the principal questions is to how much

dairy farming is able to be sustained in the region.

12. Police Community Constable's Report

Copies were available at the meeting to all members. The report urged forming Neighbourhood Support Groups and that Barry Fenton, the Neighbourhood Support Coordinator at the Rotorua Police Station would be happy to help. He noted the intention to establish a community patrol for the Lake Rotoiti Area but requested local volunteers to take an active role in assisting.

13. Harbour Master's Report

This was included in the last newsletter.

14. Classic Wooden Boat Parade

Lindsay Brighthouse spoke to this year's event which occurs on Sunday 5 February at 10 am. The boats will congregate in the Okere Arm. He urged members to enter and/or to attend to observe this fine event. He advised that the Classic and Wooden Boat Association have together with DOC installed a composting toilet at Picnic Point. He drew member's attention to the Parade's website at www.woodenboatparade.co.nz. He noted that during the coming year it is hoped to establish an eco toilet at Whangamoa Point.

15. Marine Radio

Richard Wilson spoke to this important service which provides very accurate weather forecasts three times a year 365 days of the year. He advised that access was through channel 64VHF and urged members to join and outlined the various costs of membership and courses. For further assistance phone Lindsay Spence or Sue Jenkins.

16. General Business

(a) Life Member – Richard Wilson moved and Sally Brock seconded Jim Stanton to be elected a Life Member. Several members spoke in glowing support of Jim Stanton's efforts. Tai Eru (seconded Sally Brock) moved that Mary Stanton also be elected a Life Member as she had provided huge support to the Association both in her own right and in conjunction with Jim. Charles Sturt spoke in glowing terms of both Jim and Mary. The meeting resolved unanimously to elect Jim and Mary Stanton as Life Members to join the only other Life Member, Lindsay Brighthouse.

(b) Transfer Station Hinehopu – Sally outlined the background to the removal of the skip site and its non-approval by Transit as a site for a refuse transfer station, but advised that a new site elsewhere is close to receiving all approvals.

(c) Speeding between Okawa Bay and Okere Falls – Tai Eru reported speed limits were still being continually abused. Sally reported that the Association had made submissions to Transit for a reduction but had been rejected as it was a main thoroughfare to the Port of Tauranga.

(d) Undercutting of the lake front on Gisborne Point Reserve – Sally undertook to investigate this as a result of a member's who expressed concern.

(e) Broadband access – Warren Webber raised the issue of availability of broadband through clusters. Several members undertook to provide the necessary information to Warren after the meeting.

(f) Community Board – Jim Howland spoke to oppose the Community Board concept and expressed the view that the association should be just as effective, if not more so, than a community board. Ron Marsden spoke at length in support of a community board. Richard Wilson did likewise. Both noted that one of the important concepts of a community board was the ability to talk to Council

at inception of new proposals rather than react after they had been commenced.

Ron Marsden outlined potential rating basis issues shortly to be faced and said a community board would play an inherent part in looking to achieve the right result for lake residents.

Bob Martin spoke at length as to why Council were doubtful of the benefits of a community board including cost, democracy and past successful history under the existing regime. He and Charles Sturt pointed out that Council hadn't thrown out totally the concept of a community board but rather Council had proposed a review of both community boards and the ward system later this year at which point a final decision would be made.

The Rt Hon Paul East spoke from his vast experience in all forms of government. He suggested that members should form a considered view and take into account whether creating extra layers of government was a good thing. He suggested reflection should be had as to whether a community board would detrimentally affect the existing powers of the association. He did not see cost as an issue, but suggested the concept should be approached from a more fundamental basis.

Steve Chadwick, government MP and Chair of the Local Government Select Committee spoke in opposition and said that her opinion was that the Act was to provide a framework for community boards to serve disempowered small communities. Having established the existing 150 Boards, she suggested it was not envisaged for there to be a need to build or create any new boards. She suggested Rotorua doesn't need community boards.

(g) Dave Wickliffe asked why Te Akau Point had been renamed Namasti Point in the newsletter photo. Phill Thomass editor of the newsletter advised that he had simply replicated a photo EBOP had sent to him. Paul Dell advised it would be changed.

(h) Fraser Wilason commented that as a new ratepayer he was astonished at the lack of rubbish collection in the peak holiday season and reported continually overflowing bins at ramps.

(i) Jock Schoeller spoke to the concept of a change from rating land to rating on a capital value basis, together with the proposed dropping of the 70% differential. He suggested the RDC must take into account the anomalies between the price of urban properties in the City (who have all had their services provided to them at no extra targeted cost) and the prices of the lakes area which are substantially higher and are effectively priced on a national rather than a local basis. He suggested lake properties are currently undervalued because of the water algae problem. Once the water problem is fixed up, he suggested prices will substantially increase, and so consequentially will rates under the newly proposed systems.

(j) Nick Millar spoke to the lack of activity of the Harbour Master, particularly in relation to water skiers who in the windy conditions had invaded Te Wheta Bay ignoring in the process the 5 knot restriction within 200 metres of the shore. He asked for a 5 knot sign to be erected.

The meeting closed at 11:45 with a Karakia from Tai Eru.

After the meeting a presentation was made by Paul Dell as to Lake Water Quality.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Fire, Police, Ambulance, Search & Rescue	111
Accident / Medical Centre (0800-2200)	348-1000
Urgent Pharmacy (0830 - 2130, 24/7)	348-4385
Rotorua Hospital	348-1199
St John Ambulance	348-6286
Poisons Information Centre	03-474-7000
Rotorua Police Station	348-0099
TrustPower Emergency	0800-878-787
Energy Online Faults	0800-083-285
Environment Pollution Hotline	0800-738-393
S.P.C.A	349-2955
Dog Control (RDC)	348-4199
Harbour Master - Andrew Lang	0800-368-267
- After Hours	07-921-3375
Coastguard - Richard Packham	348-9490
Marine Radio - Dave Hutchings	348-7429
Dept. of Conservation	346-1155
M.A.F.	07-578-2069
Fish and Game Eastern	357-5501
Fish and Game Licences	0800-542-362
Poaching	0800-762-244
Environment Bay of Plenty	0800-368-267
Rotorua District Council	348-4199
Lake Maintenance	362-4814
Pumps - Hi Flo Pumps	348-7516
- A/Hrs	025-274-6881
Septic Tanks - Allens United	332-3694
- Rotorua Waste Disposal	357-4534
Emerys Store	362-7866
Happy Angler Store	362-4709
Okere Falls Store	362-4944
Rotoma Trading Post	362-0722

2006 LAKE ROTOITI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Chair:	Sally Brock	Okere Falls	ph (07) 362-4764 te-pohutukawa@paradise.net.nz
Secretary:	Vacant		
Treasurer	Brentleigh Bond	Mourea ph	ph (07) 362-4700 grahamb@clear.net.nz
Committee:	Nigel Brock	Okere Falls	ph (07) 362-4764
	Willie Emery	Gisborne pt	ph (07) 362-7737 winnie.emery@clear.net.nz
	John Green	Okere Falls	ph (07) 362-4204 green.boys@xtra.co.nz
	Steve Howard	Okere Falls	ph (07) 362-4449 s.howard@clear.net.nz
	Bill Kingi	Parcliffe	ph (07) 345-7186 wakingi@xtra.co.nz
	Phill Thomass	Hinehopu	ph (07) 362-7777 lrca@thomass.net
	Geoff Turner	Waiiti	ph (07) 362-7611 gjt@pimlaw.co.nz
			Ph (09) 578-3773

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Weekly Household Refuse Collection

Only RDC Official Bags will be collected
Place at kerbside by 8am on collection day
Tie bags securely

No changes to collection days on Public Holidays.

Refuse & Recycling Okere Transfer Station

Located at Okere Rd (just south of SH33)

Hours: 1.00pm - 4.00pm Wednesday

10.00am - 4.30pm Sundays

1.00pm - 4.30pm Last afternoon of Public Holiday

Landfill Fees apply. Recycling Free of Charge

Domestic Waste only

No Trucks

No Hazardous Waste

For further information call RCC (07) 348-4199

Rotorua Landfill

Located off Atiamuri Highway SH30

1.6km from Waipa Junction

Hours:

Monday - Saturday 7.30am - 4.30pm

Sunday and Public Holidays 9.30am - 4.30pm

CLOSED Christmas Day

Landfill Fees Apply

MEDICAL SERVICES

Ngati Pikiao Health Services

Tamatea St, Hinehopu, Rotoiti

Ph 07-362-7888

Mon 9 - 2pm, Fri 9 - 1pm

Ngapuna Health Centre

283-293 Te Ngae Rd, Rotorua

Ph 07-345-7412

Mon, Tues, Fri 9 - 5pm

Wed, Thurs 9 - 7pm

LAKE MAINTENANCE

NOEL & SUZANNE RUEBE

OKERE FALLS

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

**PHONE 027-494-8730 or 021-072-1241
PO BOX 495 ROTORUA**

Solid Wood
Furniture Restoration
Phone Kevin

Ph (07) 362-4788 or (021) 704-727