



Lake Rotoiti Community Association Incorporated



*Early Morning,
Hinehopu.*

Nga mihi o te wa - Season's Greetings

With summer nearly here, it is once again time to start thinking about the year to come, and to review the year just ending. This year has been one of transition for LRCA as we adjusted to having a Community Board, and seeing how to work together. It is apparent that there is still a major role for your Association to play. While the Board is there to represent its communities, to respond to their concerns and to interact with both residents and Council, LRCA's role includes proactively promoting the interests of our local community and raising awareness amongst our members about issues that will affect us all. The Community Board can only respond to issues brought to it, and only 'fight' on our behalf with Council if we as residents and an Association take our issues to them and show strong community concern.

2008 saw the resignations of several long-term committee members and we are fortunate that a small number of people put themselves forward at last year's AGM. However this year will see 4 more committee members stand down.

We say goodbye to Brentleigh Bond who is kept more than busy by the Community Board and other community groups he is involved in, John and Ann Green, whose time and energies are ever more consumed by the very important fight to improve and protect the lakes' water quality, and Geoff Turner who has for many years provided us with an expert guiding hand on all matters legal. A heartfelt thanks to them all for the huge amount of energy and work they have, and continue to, put into our community.

On the following page the Committee describes clearly the situation this leaves us in, so suffice to say here that

without your help we are in trouble. If you care about Rotoiti please consider putting yourself forward for committee. If you have a strong interest in an issue affecting our lake, the committee can also co-opt members, so please, tell us what areas you can help us in. Contact Ann Green at jandagreen5@xtra.co.nz, or ph 07-362-4204.

Quite a few issues face us next year. The Rating System will have a major impact on us all. The Okere Sewerage Scheme continues in development, and planning should get underway for Gisborne Point - Hinehopu. There are large but undefined costs involved in the schemes, so we need to make sure we have strong community input.

Another potentially major issue is the Okere Falls Control Gate. Its Consent expires in 2010 and EnvBOP and RDC will be consulting with the community before applying for a new Consent - the result of which is uncertain. This is a complex issue with many concerns being expressed both about the continuing operation of the gates, and the effect on lake levels if they are removed. We need an informed debate within the community on the issues involved so we can have our full say in the process.

After the recent elections we say goodbye to Steve Chadwick as our Electorate MP, and welcome Todd McLay. We thank Steve for all her work for the Rotorua Communities over the years, and especially the fight to protect our wonderful lakes environment, and wish her well in her new roles.

We look forward to seeing you all at our AGM on the 4th January, but in the meantime,

Meri Kirihimete - Merry Christmas – *Phill Thomass*

Your Association Needs You!

At the time of writing this editorial, (16 November 2008), we regret to say your association is NOT in good heart. In fact it is in bad shape.

At last year's AGM, a new committee was elected, but without any candidate putting him/herself up for election as the chairperson. Accordingly a committee only was elected.

Absent any subsequent contender for Chairpersonship emerging, it is fair to say that at best the LRCA has only muddled along this last year.

We have been blessed in the past with very active Chairpersons such as Lindsay Brighthouse, Jim Stanton and more recently Sally Brock. Along the way they have had sterling assistance from Brentleigh Bond together with John and Ann Green. This group of very active locals drove the association, and members were very well served by all of them.

Subsequently Brentleigh has been elected as LRCA's representative to the RDC Community Board. He must stand down. The Greens too are also standing down as they are devoting their time to LWQS, of which they are respectively Chairman and Secretary. So too is Geoff Turner.

LRCA is accordingly pretty much bereft of passionate locals, and is in dire and urgent need for new blood from local residents. Particularly, we need a Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, and minute Secretary. Your Committee is at the

time of writing making personal approaches in advance of the AGM. But we need those receiving this newsletter, to think about helping your association and its community. Anyone prepared to help should email John and Ann Green on Jandagreen5@xtra.co.nz.

LRCA's workload has somewhat diminished with the establishment of the Community Board (for which the LRCA fought hard and long). Now that the diversion wall is complete, the ongoing role in terms of lake water quality is being undertaken by the LWQS.

Nevertheless there are still important local issues, particularly in terms of dealing with Environment Bay of Plenty and the Rotorua District Council, responding to their annual plans, representing your interests on the prospective change in the rate base etc, together with newsletters, communication with the Community Board and so on. These days there will probably only be five meetings per year, and past members will help to ease in new members.

Put bluntly we desperately need community minded locals to come forward to serve your association, particularly as Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Minute Secretary. Without them we fear the outcome.

We could conclude by saying Happy Christmas, but this hardly seems appropriate in the circumstances. More than Seasons Greetings are needed. We need HELP!! (Preferably from both east and west Rotoiti.)

LRCA 2008 Committee

Subscriptions

Accompanying this newsletter is a subscription notice. We are fortunate to have a high level of membership from our community, and would be pleased to receive your ongoing support this year. Please don't forget to supply a current email address as email becomes an ever more important means of communication for us.

Lake Rotoiti Care Group

Since Sally Brock left our lake there have been a number of huge gaping holes and she is still sorely missed. She was particularly enthusiastic about the care of our lake and its environment and spent many weekends working with the PD workers in a cleanup of scrub and willow trees in areas around Okere Falls to prepare for native planting. Some of you will also remember the happy days on "beach clean ups" which involved mainly weed control on beaches that were once grazed by cattle and then fenced off, leaving gorse and blackberry to grow in their rampant way. A BBQ or picnic usually finished off a hard but satisfying morning's work. I am sure that you will all have noticed that many of our beaches are much more attractive and inviting places now.

Sally was the catalyst in gathering a group of keen Rotoiti Lake dwellers. She set the date and sent out a notice, usually by email or letterbox. As yet there has been no one prepared to step in to that role, and yet it made a noticeable difference to our environment. There are plenty of willing worker ants, but we do need a king or queen bee to co-ordinate us all, and to be in contact with Environment Bay of Plenty staff who have an annual budget of plants to distribute around the lake. They also have enjoyed working with the local residents.

If anyone is interested in the Co-ordinator role could they please contact either Mel Whiting, Environment Bay of Plenty, 0800 368 288, Ex 7576, or Mob. 021 274 1176, or Ann Green, 362 4204, jandagreen5@xtra.co.nz. If you are interested in helping an email or telephone number would be useful too.

Recently there was a small group who met beside the lake edge on the main road (SH33) near Okere Falls to plant about 400 small natives in an area where willow trees had been removed. The ground was probably an old roadway and we brought in a post-hole borer which proved very effective and the job was finished in a couple of hours and time for a coffee at the Okere Store. Thank you Marcus Wilkins for such a brilliant suggestion and manhandled the machine like a child's toy.

Ann Green (Temporary Co-Ordinator)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LAKE ROTOITI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

To be held at

**PIKIAO RUGBY LEAGUE CLUBROOMS
TAKINGA ST
MOUREA**

10am SUNDAY THE 4TH OF JANUARY 2009

NAU MAI HAERE MAI- ALL WELCOME

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

Lakes Water Quality Society Report

At last we at LWQS feel we are seeing some positive actions happening for our lakes after the long years of talk and scientific research. The Ohau Diversion Wall was opened on 20th October 2008 at a ceremony held in the Duxton Hotel. Full recognition was given to all the individuals and organisations who gave leadership, support and their blessing to the project. We are cautiously optimistic that the wall is a “silver bullet” for Lake Rotoiti’s future water quality, and we all cross our fingers that is indeed the case. The leadership given to this project, championed by Paul Dell, supported by EBOP, RDC, Te Arawa Lakes Trust, the Hon Steve Chadwick and Tangata Whenua is a strong example of the outcomes a community can achieve against difficult challenges.

Funding from Central Government has enabled critical lakeside sewerage schemes on these lakes to go ahead as planned. Wetlands and fencing off our lakes and waterways is nearly 90% completed. Trials with Zeolite at Lake Okaro to cap sediments and harvesting weeds at Rotoehu have shown good results. However the challenges across all twelve Rotorua Lakes remain a constant reminder that our work will never be over. We are making good progress on getting the wider community aware of the issues and the need for action. We believe that the dilemma of water quality versus intensive land use is now a concern of the entire nation and indeed across the world. There is a huge amount of work being done by scientists, councils, politicians and the farming community to find ways of reducing the nutrients from intensive land use, but at the same time keeping in mind that we are a food producing country, reliant on protein production for our economy.

On the 12th and 13th August we hosted our 6th Symposium, “Nutrient Sensitive Zones – Nitrogen and Phosphorus, Lakes and Waterways”. The background to the Symposium was the increasing pressure on fresh water resources from

the primary production sector, particularly dairying, and the damage to ecological, recreational and cultural values of freshwater environments. Many areas within New Zealand are highly sensitive to nutrient discharges, and our pristine rivers and lakes which have long been the show case to the rest of the world are showing significant signs of deterioration.

Earlier Symposia showed that the water quality deterioration is due to high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus contamination. With the causes of this pollution known, Rotorua Lakes 2008 focussed on the policy tools and framework to manage it. The Resource Management Act has been used by Councils to regulate point discharges of pollutions but it has not been effectively used to regulate diffuse or non-point discharges.

The Symposium explored three questions:

- Whether the RMA is adequate to deal with diffuse discharges of pollutants
- Whether special nutrient sensitive zones need to be created to manage sensitive lakes and waterway environments
- What an effective National Freshwater Policy statement under the RMA should look like

The Symposium was designed to bring together the lessons learned in Europe, USA Australia and New Zealand. The Symposium format again provided an invaluable forum for bringing expertise, practical observation and policy makers together to achieve the best outcome to complex and difficult problems. We believe that it was a great success and hope that the information learnt will filter through in the decisions made by everyone involved with these issues. A copy of the Proceedings of the Symposium for those interested is available from Ann Green, jandagreen5@xtra.co.nz, or 07 3624204

John Green, Chair.

Lake Aquatic Pest Update – EBOP

Lake Weed Spraying

Lake weed spraying through the Rotorua Lakes is due to start in November, as with past years control will be focused on areas around boat ramps this control is primarily carried out to prevent weed spreading through to other sites.

Boat Washdown Facility

A portable boat washdown facility is presently under construction. It will be a self contained plant that is mounted on a trailer and will be used to wash boats and trailers to decontaminate them to reduce the risk of aquatic pests including Didymo spreading into our Lakes.

The unit, which is a joint venture between the Department of Conservation and Environment Bay of Plenty, is planned to be used at events around the Rotorua Lakes over the summer.

Weed Harvesting

Weed harvesting has been carried out at Lake Rotoehu as part of the Lake Plan Action for that lake since trial work carried out in 2006 indicated that both nitrogen and phosphorus can be removed with weed. For early 2009 Weed Harvesting is also planned for Lake Rotoiti, a limited amount of removal dependant on weed growth will be carried out at Okawa Bay.

Weed Cordon

A net cordon specifically designed to prevent the spread of aquatic weed has been placed around the Boat Ramp at Merge Lodge, Lake Rotoma. Lake Rotoma is particularly vulnerable to invasion by two of the worst aquatic weeds Hornwort and Egeria. Both of these weeds spread by vegetative fragments and are found in nearby lakes.

The cordon is constructed from used mackerel purse seine net donated by Sanford fisheries and has been designed to contain any fragments that may arrive at the boat ramp on boats or boat trailers. The area of the cordon is marked out with buoys and port and starboard makers, signage informs the public of the cordons purpose and gives navigational instructions. The area within the cordon will be sprayed out annually and will be checked regularly for any Hornwort or Egeria incursions.

Installation of the cordon, which has been carried by EBOP Water Management and Land Management staff, has been well received by lake users and residents who have been pleased to see proactive management aimed at maintaining the high water quality and amenity values at Lake Rotoma.

Stop the Spread DVD

A promotional DVD highlighting the risks to Rotorua Lakes posed by Aquatic pest plants and fish has been produced. The DVD shows the impact that invasive species can have on the natural biodiversity of our Lakes. The underwater footage gives viewers the opportunity to see into an environment that due to its “hidden” nature is often unappreciated for its unique value. The DVD goes on to explain that lake users need to “Check Clean and Dry” to stop the spread of aquatic pests.

Copies of the DVD will be extensively distributed over the summer, during which time an extensive awareness campaign will be run. The campaign following from successful programmes run over previous years is based around the threat that aquatic pests including Didymo pose to Bay of Plenty waterways.



Okere/Otaramarae/Whangamarino

Sewerage Scheme update December 2008.

Inspection of individual properties is currently being undertaken to establish the proposed location of the low pressure grinder pumping units within each property. This work is expected to be completed by mid November 2008.

The inspection of the power supply systems of individual properties will follow and is programmed to start in mid December 2008. The objective of the inspection is to ensure that the connection of the pumping units to the existing domestic power supply complies with current requirements.

Formal authorisation in accordance with the Local Government Act will be requested from each property owner. This authorisation will enable Council to construct and maintain the pumping units and corresponding pipeline within each property. Letters with accompanying drawings showing the proposed location of the pumping units and corresponding pipelines within each property will be sent in mid December 2008.

The intention is to tender the Okere Falls/Otaramarae/Whangamarino Sewerage Scheme with Okareka Sewerage Scheme as one contract in July 2009. It is envisaged that tendering a long term contract would result in better prices because of the certainty of long term work and lesser overhead costs.

If you need further information regarding the proposed sewerage scheme, please contact Mark Buckley or Greg Manzano at 07 3484199

Greg Manzano,

General Manager - Hydrus Engineering Consultants

St Mary's Anglican Church Mourea



In the last issue, it was revealed that St Mary's, the only original church remaining in the Rotoiti rohe (area) was to be restored to its former glory. From the original steering group, an Incorporated Charitable Trust was set up to pursue avenues of funding to enable the restoration work to be carried out.

Recently, the Trust has achieved its aim of securing a major NZ Lotteries Board grant for the completion of the exterior renovations. A local building contractor has been engaged to carry out this work which is scheduled to commence shortly after Christmas. Further into the project, additional needs to complete the interior will be assessed and funding will be sought through available donor organisations.

In the meantime, many thanks to all who have contributed and expressed an interest in the project which is hoped to be fully completed by the end of 2009. Further information may be gained by contacting the Trust Secretary, Mary Stanton Ph 362 4690.



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Judy Guyton
M: 021 801 965



Steve Howard
M: 021 722 408



Lisa Crowe
M: 0274 961 935

Office: 348 4159

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"Well What a Ride"

The property market has certainly changed from that of a year ago. Up until 18 months ago things were great, with a solid number of genuine purchasers in the market place and sales being achieved at better than average values and a shortness of properties being offered for sale.

Since then we have experienced the media telling us of the pending economic crash that was around the corner, high interest rates, increasing Fuel costs and the elections, all of which has had a negative effect on the real estate market, with some areas suffering massive falls in value.

The purchase a holiday home is usually from discretionary dollars, so the drop off in purchasers in the market place was to be expected with the above conditions.

With regards to value, we have done better than our city counter parts. My own experience has been that Lake properties have maintained their value as at 18 months to a year ago, we have not seen the annual increase in values normally achieved on the lake, but neither have we experienced the fall in values, if you purchased within that period at a fair market price the same value will apply today, what is noticeable is the small number of purchasers around which is resulting in properties being on the market for longer. Those purchasers who are around are genuine although they will still attempt to purchase well under asking price. It's important that you don't get offended with a low offer and refuse to counter back. If you do that normally everyone in the loop gets their back up and negotiations collapse so no one wins, take guidance from your agent, give him/her the tools to work with, strong guidelines and rely on him/her to use their skills to get a

result you are happy with and which allows you to move on with your plans.

What's in the future? Still uncertainty but the elections are over, people seem to have recovered their stride with a bit of renewed confidence, fuel costs have returned to a all time low and interest rates are showing signs of falling even further. All of these things will have a positive impact on us all and should flow on to an improvement in the Real Estate market.

Wishing you all the best for the coming holiday season and a great new year.

Steve Howard

Report it NOW . . .

Concerns have been expressed about the increase in crime, and also reckless or dangerous driving (I hesitate to say "Boy Racers" as my experience is that some of the well-heeled boat or jet-ski towing crowd are just as bad) in low speed areas. If you see suspicious behaviour or dangerous driving, get a registration number and description and please call the Police. They have finite resources and allocate them on the basis of incidents reported, so sadly it is a case of "the squeaky wheel gets oiled". If the incident is happening at the time ring 111, or if you are reporting it afterwards call the Rotorua Police Station. Likewise if you witness dangerous behaviour on the water report it to the Harbourmaster.

Phill Thomass

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Rotoma & Rotoehu Ratepayers

We have a very active committee - even able to form sub-committees to deal with special issues. The Rotorua Lakes Community Board have been very active and supportive on our behalf, they are working hard to get kerbing and channelling for Oxford Road and a much needed Transfer Station for the area. Members are doing their bit by supplying a Mulcher and a Ride-on Mower for locals use.

Hornwort Harvesting at Kennedy Bay (600 tonnes taken away) has made a big difference to Lake Rotoehu and the jetty and boat ramp there have been upgraded. On the same lake at Otoutu Bay a new jetty has been erected and the slipway moved and enlarged, car parking and large green area formed with associated planting. Even the old boatshed have been removed.

On Lake Rotoma a weed cordon has been placed around Merge reserve jetty to ensure that weed is not introduced into this pristine lake. EBOP are taking delivery of a portable boat washing facility and this will make a big difference to all our lakes. Six volunteer wardens are being trained to deal with problems created by some boat owners and users of Lake Rotoma this summer and weed spraying is about to take place on both lakes.

Issues of some concern are a proposed Geothermal Power Station just off State Highway 30 before the turn off to the Soda Springs, dumping of rubbish in the Forest and on the beach at Merge Reserve and - as to everyone - the proposed amendment to the Rating System.

Catherine Branson.

Lake Rotoiti Charitable Trust

The 31st March 2008 marked the end of the first full financial year since the Trust was incorporated in 2006 and we are pleased to report to you on the Trust's activities for that period.

Our endeavours throughout the year have focussed on promoting the Trust to the Rotoiti community. During this period we have produced brochures and fact sheets outlining the aims and functions of the Trust and have circulated these to over 500 members of the Manupirua Springs Inc. A web site has been established with additional information and forms for organisations and individuals to apply for funding.

We are pleased to advise that as a result of these initiatives we received expressions of interest from a number of people which has led to the establishment of a 'Friends of the Lake' database with a total of 39 people currently registered.

Our web site can be viewed at www.rotoiticharitabletrust.co.nz

We can now advise that the Manupirua Springs Inc., the Society that operated the hot pools at Manupirua for nearly 50 years has, following a resolution of its members, now been wound up and all surplus funds have been transferred to the Trust. A total of \$30,204.70 has been received from this Society. Additionally, donations have been received from a number of benefactors and these, together with compounding interest, has resulted in total funds in excess of \$55,000.00 now being held by the Trust.

If you would care to make a donation to the Trust, would like to be included on our 'Friends of the Lake' database, or have a charitable project in or around Lake Rotoiti that needs some funding, please check our website or contact us.

Kind regards and best wishes for the festive season.

Hugh Marston (Chair) (07) 544 7876

h.j.marston@xtra.co.nz

Greeta Hulme (Secretary) (07) 349 4254

F (07) 349 4258

Brentleigh Bond (Treasurer) (07) 362 4700

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West Rotoiti Volunteer Fire Unit

The Okere Falls fire station has seen a fair amount of activity since last summer. We now have reasonable numbers of well trained crew again, enabling us to turn out to incidents with a full fire truck. During the winter months we only had to go to a handful of minor incidents, however, training at the fire station has been very well attended. Recently, Rotorua District Council has run a number of structured training program courses for volunteer fire units in the Rotorua District area, which most of us were able to attend as well. I now feel that our crew is ready for anything that gets thrown at them.

Training is held at our fire station on Okere Road every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month and 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).

The most exciting news for our fire unit during the last year was receiving an \$ 8000 grant from New Zealand Community Trust to purchase a defibrillator and a new 25,000 litre water tank. While the new water tank is not quite operational yet (a pump and inlets/outlets are to be fitted in the next 4 weeks) the defibrillator has now been placed on the truck. We hope that many residents of the wider Okere Falls area make note of the availability of such a lifesaving device in close proximity. In case of medical emergencies we still want to urge everybody to call "111 Ambulance" first but if you mention to the operator that a defibrillator is on the West Rotoiti fire truck in Okere Falls we get paged in a second alarm and can hopefully attend within less than 10 minutes, compared to 25 minutes or more for an Ambulance coming from Rotorua or (as

happened in the past) Te Puke.

Over the winter we have had a donation box sitting at the Okere Falls Store.

All donations were appreciated very much and we will use the funds to further upgrade our First Aid kit by adding medical oxygen.

With restricted fire season now in place (from 1st October 2008 to 30th April 2009) 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 would like to thank all our supporters for their subscriptions and donations after our newsletter was sent out in August. This helps us a lot to keep our unit operational. If you haven't done so and would like to pay your subscription (\$ 10 per household) or make any donations to West Rotoiti Volunteer Fire Unit Inc., you can send a cheque to the treasurer Carol Goodman, 12 Foster Road, RD4, Rotorua, or make a direct payment into our bank account at National Bank Rotorua Branch, account # 06-0413-0058972-00.

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

Andi Uhl, Chairman

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 lrc@thomass.net



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Water Quality – Progress and Challenges for our Lakes

There is ample evidence the water quality in our lakes is in decline due to excess nutrients, principally nitrogen and phosphorus from human activity reaching the streams, groundwater and the lakes. There can be no argument we need to prevent deterioration of the pristine lakes and to clean up the degraded ones and this issue rightly features high on the action lists of both EBOP and RDC councils. But how clean? What water quality do we want? And how do we define that quality?

Following consultation between councils, stakeholders, scientists and other experts, it was agreed that the water quality that prevailed in the 1960's was generally acceptable to the community and therefore a realistic target to aim for. Science has provided us with an index known as the trophic level index, or TLI, which enables us to measure the water quality and the TLI targets you see in the action plans and other documentation represents the water quality that existed in our various lakes in the 1960's.

So far, so good. We can measure where we are today and we know what we want to achieve. But how do we get there in practical terms?

Again science has come to our rescue! Following consideration by the 'Officials Committee on Eutrophication' (1970's), which over time became the 'Lake Rotorua Scientific Co-ordinating Committee' and later the 'Technical Advisory Group' or TAG, and after communication with the 'National Water & Soil Conservation Authority', nutrient targets to remedy the Rotorua Lakes were set. It is important to note that these reduction targets appear in the various 'Action Plans' and, following community consultation, these targets were accepted by all stakeholders!

In a recent presentation, Environment Bay of Plenty's CEO Bill Bayfield commented that not all the Rotorua lakes are equal. He indicated they are not equal in terms of public expectations, water quality, risks, or the solutions that may be applied. He suggested for some of our lakes we may not need rules and that an MOU, a contract or a consent with the land owners may be adequate. He continued that the challenge for the pristine lakes is to keep them that way and to ensure that the planning regime maintains that water quality. The action on other lakes will be limited to general advice, investigation, monitoring and actions where priority and funding allows. The challenges for three of the worst four lakes are imminently 'doable' with sewerage schemes and the Ohau Channel diversion wall already underway or completed.

This leaves just Lake Rotorua, which perhaps presents the greatest challenge. This takes us back to the 'nutrient reduction targets' that the science tells us we need to attain to restore the lake water quality. And importantly, these targets are considered the minimum necessary to reach the goal. It goes without saying that if we do not reach these targets, we are not going to succeed and the future for the lake and the city built around its shore is bleak indeed.

The targets require catchment inflows to Lake Rotorua to be reduced by 250 tonnes of nitrogen and 10 tonnes of phosphorus per year. With total catchment inflows of 783 tonnes (N) and 40 tonnes of (P), we therefore need to reduce total inflows of P by roughly a quarter and N by a third to reach the necessary goals. With significant urban sewerage and stormwater works already completed, it is

not surprising that the land use sector remains the biggest contributor with 72% of total N and 42% of P coming from that source alone.

Accordingly, the necessary reduction targets for the farming sector are 170 tonnes of N and 6 tonnes of P and with dairying contributing over half of this total from a little over one quarter of the land area, it is not hard to see the starting line.

Rotorua District Council is currently reviewing its District Plan and it is expected that a draft will be released for informal public comment in the near future. With this District Plan required to 'give effect' to the relevant Regional Policy Statement, it is heartening to hear that the date of notification of EBOP's second generation Regional Policy Statement has been brought forward to October 2009 in order to allow for better alignment with the Rotorua District Plan. It is to be hoped that discussions between the two Councils at both the officer and political levels will result in the District Plan giving full effect to the Regional Policy Statement as regards achieving the nutrient reduction targets necessary to save our lakes.

We understand EBOP plans to release a public discussion paper on its second generation Regional Policy Statement later this year. It is crucial RDC's District Plan facilitates all aspects of attaining the nutrient reduction targets necessary to save our lakes. At LWQS's Symposium, NIWA's Kit Rutherford stated 'Where a receiving water is very sensitive to increasing nutrient load, it often transpires that intensive land use even with the best available mitigation measures will not meet the desired water quality targets – suggesting that the only option is less intensive land use'.

It should be stressed that to save Lake Rotorua, total catchment inflows of P must be reduced by 10 tonnes, and N by 250 tonnes. Of these totals, 170 tonnes of N and 6 tonnes of P must come from land use, principally intensive land use. To compromise and/or not achieve these targets is not acceptable to the community, and is potentially fatal to the creation of future wealth in the Rotorua District. Rotorua as we know it cannot exist without clean lakes and science tells us that we cannot expect to have clean lakes without, as a minimum, achieving these nutrient reduction targets.

Brentleigh Bond

Maritime Update

The Ohau Channel Delta boat ramp has now reopened after the Channel Wall has been completed. EBOP have upgraded the ramp with new concrete slabs to make safer launching and the jetty has been upgraded. The car park is not huge but has been tidied up.

With the completion of the Ohau wall diversion you will notice signs at the boat launching ramps indicating the new five knot restriction up and around the wall, where there used to be a speed access lane. Please show consideration for other users around the wall. You should keep a good look out at all times as this is a new structure that people will have to get used to. Remember to tell your visitors as well!

The Harbour master will be paying close attention to the Okere Arm over summer.

Lake Structures Administration or Alice in Wonderland?

Most lakeside residents or bach owners will be aware that the administration of “lake structures” (previously jetties and boatsheds) is being transferred from Rotorua District Council (RDC) to Environment Bay of Plenty (EBOP). At a public meeting on this topic held in Ngongotaha about 2 ½ years ago, representatives of both RDC and EBOP assured the sceptical attendees that the process would be quick and streamlined and that “little additional expense would be incurred by license holders”. Yeah, right! This little tale may be of interest to other lakeside owners who are going through this changeover.

We have two lake structures on our property: a stand-alone jetty, and a float-in boatshed with attached jetty. Under the previous regime, they were treated as a single licence and incurred an annual charge of about \$50.

Our first hint that all was not well was in October 2006, when a letter from RDC arrived assuring us that our boatshed was high and dry, on a RDC Recreation Reserve and therefore not a lake structure. We wrote back informing them that we did, in fact, have a ‘dry’ boatshed on our own land, all properly consented and permitted, but that if they looked more carefully they would find that we did also have a wet boatshed, about 20m from our jetty. We heard no more on that, but the first seeds of unease had been sown.

In December 2006 another letter arrived, telling us that our jetty required remedial work to bring it in line with the “required safety standards”, that the work “is required to be completed prior to the issuing of retrospective Resource Consent”, and that: “You are advised to make contact with the Rotorua Harbour Master in respect of the remedial work required at your earliest convenience.” Amazing how fond these people are of using the word “required” – 4 times in a one-page letter! Rather a jack-boot attitude I would have thought.

We were anxious to get the remedial work done over the Christmas/New Year holiday while we had spare time and a workforce (our daughter and other unsuspecting visitors) available, but received no reply to calls or email from the Harbour Master’s Office (HMO). We finally attracted their attention only after the RDC intervened, and a representative arrived in mid-February 2007. He pointed out the work required, which we were happy to do, then observed that we would need a Building Consent from RDC at a cost of about \$200. A Building Consent to carry out “required” repairs and maintenance – surely not? A visit to RDC followed and after a spirited “discussion” with the Appropriate Person a document was produced

which I was informed would provide the justification for the Consent and its fee. I took it home, studied it and it was apparent no Consent was needed. A nice little earner for the RDC maybe but we were having none of that!

So we went ahead and carried out the remedial work anyway (the labour force had now disappeared and the water was much cooler). We added some new piles, replaced some stringers, bracing and deck planks; in fact, more work than was originally “required”. We also carried out some (unrequired) maintenance on the float-in boatshed. This work extended over several weeks, as weather and time permitted. On 30 May 2007 we informed the HMO that the work had been done. A representative from that Office arrived in June 2007, inspected the work on both structures and agreed that it was fine.

Also, in April 2008 a package of documents arrived from RDC, including photographs of the lake structures (dated but it was quite clear that someone had got their dates wrong), forms to fill in and a request for \$360 in Resource Consent Application fees (no invoice – very un-businesslike). Plus a note that an annual ‘Monitoring Fee’ of \$100 per structure would apply! Wasn’t going to cost us much, huh? Just a fourfold rise in annual fees, plus the initial fee.

We filled in the forms and sent them off with a covering letter explaining that, due to financial stringencies, payment of the \$360 would be delayed a little while. Our letter also pointed out a number of errors in the documentation, and requested some information as to what monitoring would be done, how often, and what sort of reporting back to the clients (us) we could expect. Copies of this letter were sent to a number of parties, both within and outside RDC.

A reply signed by the District Manager of RDC was received early in May 2008. Among other things this letter pointed out that the required maintenance work had not been done, that the representative from the HMO “recalls visiting around June 2007, however he is sure that no repairs and maintenance had been carried out on either structure at this time.” Well, this was really the last straw. We replied with a detailed and distinctly indignant letter, contacted one of our local Councillors and attended a meeting with him and the District Manager on 9 May 2008. Among other matters, I pointed out that one of the photographs we had been sent clearly showed the new timber that we had installed in our jetty.

This useful meeting explored the questions of cost, delays, why the HMO people apparently kept no written records of their inspection visits, and other matters. The question of a Building Consent fee was raised, but hastily dropped after we produced the information, supplied by RDC, that showed none was needed. A subsequent rather apologetic letter (15 May 2008) from RDC also revealed that the HMO people were not supposed to have been involved in the matter at all, despite our being sent to them by RDC! EBOP (who now run the HMO) were also rather indignant that the Harbour Master had been involved. We were assured that processes and responsibilities were being clarified.

By July 2008 we were sufficiently financial to pay the \$350 Resource Consent fees. A phone call to a senior person in RDC suggested that no-one in RDC knew anything

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Rotorua Lakes Programme Update – EBOP

The Rotorua Lakes Restoration and Protection programme is progressing well with the completion of the Ohau diversion wall and the initiation of a number of other projects.

Ongoing monitoring is required to determine performance and detect any environmental effects from the wall. To date flow monitoring undertaken by the University of Waikato has shown that flow both inside the wall and coming from Lake Rotoiti is moving in the right direction. The new monitoring programme, ongoing for the next five years, covers the four main areas of water quality, algae concentration, fisheries monitoring and bird monitoring around the wall. A line of red buoys along the inside of the wall has been placed in an attempt to keep boats away from the shoreline and avoid any disturbance to the bird habitat in that area.

The fisheries monitoring programme is overseen by an appointed panel of independent experts who advise on the programme and determine the detail of the programme. The fisheries monitoring is required to look at the impact on smelt, trout, kakahi and kura fisheries.

Sewerage reticulation programmes managed by the RDC are now able to move forward because we have secured the government funding of \$72m for the four lakes Okareka, Rotoehu, Rotorua and Rotoiti. This means sewerage reticulation schemes for Okareka, Rotorua and Rotoiti will now proceed in the timeframes set by RDC.

Environment Bay of Plenty has been consulting affected parties on renewal of its Utuhina phosphorus locking consent and the construction of a new phosphorus locking plant on the Puarenga Stream. Both these projects are progressing well and the construction of the new plant on the Puarenga Stream is expected to take place in the 2008/2009 year. These plants will have a combined capacity to remove around about four tonnes of phosphorus coming into Lake Rotorua annually.

There are a number of other new projects which are now been progressed, firstly with consultation and discussion with landowners and then through with the community. These include treatment of geothermal flows at Tikitere to remove nitrogen and a number of projects on Lake Rotoehu which are contained in the Rotoehu Action Plan. These include development of wetlands, another phosphorus locking plant for the incoming flows to Lake Rotoehu and possible biological treatment in a targeted bay within the lake.

A couple of small floating wetlands have been developed by Environment Bay of Plenty on Lake Rotoehu. In conjunction with this NIWA has undertaken tank trials to test the performance of floating wetlands for nitrogen removal and the results are very promising. Environment Bay of Plenty is now planning to obtain a more global consent for construction of small floating wetlands on any of the 12 lakes where communities are interested in being involved in these projects.

The lake TLI's (Trophic Level Indexes) have been calculated for the 2007/2008 year and presented to Environment Bay of Plenty's Regulation, Monitoring and Investigation Committee recently. This is available on the Environment Bay of Plenty website under the heading "About Us" then click on Agendas and Minutes

about Lake Structures any more, but that they were still responsible for receiving fees (surprise, surprise!) and that we would need to "test the system". My wife went into RDC one lunch-time to test the system, armed with \$360, and a covering letter clearly explaining what the payment was for, quoting Lake Structure Numbers, Document Numbers and File Reference numbers. It took almost one hour to get someone who could match the payment with the previous application and issue a receipt. I suppose that was pretty good efficiency, really!

On 27 August another RDC officer rang me, saying she had responsibility for Lake Structures (although no-one else in RDC seemed to realise this) and they had no record of our having paid our Resource Consent fees. Argghhh!!! I assured her we had, and was able to quote a receipt number. A subsequent (sheepish) phone call from RDC informed me the money had eventually been found.

After this last excitement a Great Silence seems to have fallen on the matter, as no documents, letters or phone calls have arrived. Phoning RDC in September produced the information that EBOP were experiencing "delays" in processing the last batch of applications. By mid-November another call to RDC found there "were delays which may have been caused at our end".

So far this "streamlined and inexpensive" exercise has taken over two years, cost \$360 and has been a huge waste of our

time. We still do not have our Resource Consents.

What really concerns me is the following:

- Confusion between a 'dry' and a 'wet' boatshed.
- Attempt to extract a Building Consent fee which was not required – you could call this a 'rort'. Staff need to understand the documents from which they are making recommendations.
- Confusion as to which party (EBOP, RDC, HMO) has what responsibilities.
- Failure of HMO to keep proper records or to answer correspondence or phone messages.
- Repeated incorrect documentation.
- Large annual charges for 'monitoring' of an unspecified nature.
- General bureaucratic incompetence and highhandedness.

If this is what RDC are capable of achieving over a simple little matter like this, what will result when they tackle installing sewerage in difficult terrain like Okere Falls and Otaramarae? I shudder to think! With sewerage schemes and rating reviews rushing down on us, WE REALLY NEED A STRONG RATEPAYERS' GROUP! Please help – it might be you in the firing line next time.

Nick Miller

Had similar experiences? Please let us know.

Ph. 07 362 4747 Email ncmiller@orcon.net.nz

Councillors' Reports

Karen Hunt

The first year has passed very quickly and a fascinating time it has been. During this past year, I have gained considerable insight into not only the lakes water quality issues but also the issues of rural and semi-rural lakeside communities. While the issues that you face may be similar to the urban areas, there are issues that are quite specific to your communities and these often require a different response and view point. Congratulations must go to the elected community board members who continue to lobby and work on your behalf. Thanks also to the working group who organised the LWQS Symposium; it was well run, with great speakers and very informative.

Also of note are the many and varied groups operating within the lakes communities who are willing to tackle any local issue and who continue to demonstrate the inclusive and supportive nature of caring communities.

RATES

Due to the enormous feedback from this review, it has resulted in a through look at how we gather our rates and what people are really paying for. Now that we have the new valuations, we are able to proceed with the rating review process. By now, all of you will have received your new property valuations and if you are unhappy with these for any reason then you must lodge an objection to that effect before 24 November. All relevant information is on the back of your valuation notice.

We have yet to finalize our rating policy however; it is fair to say it is likely to be a mixture of capital and land values with targeted rates where possible. This will form part of the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP). The Draft LTCCP will be available for consultation by March 2009. It will not be a 'one size fits all approach'.

Other issues looming large at council are the recently granted consent for the airport runway extension, which is ready to proceed immediately. The international airport has the potential to inject much needed focus and direction in our economy, CBD and wider district.

DISTRICT PLAN

We are looking at a number of different options for land use changes as we progress through our district plan review. There may be changes to some of our rural zoning as we continue to seek solutions to our current nutrient problems. Please remember to make a submission on anything you consider important.

SEWERAGE

The sewerage schemes are progressing with Hinemoa point ready to be connected and Brunswick/ Rotokawa ready for construction in 2009. Other lakes, Okareka and Tarawera, are at various stages of design and consultation. All these communities can take some pride in the fact that they are making a collective difference to the ongoing quality of the Te Arawa Lakes.

Having recently attended the official blessing of the Ohau channel diversion wall, the feedback from locals is extremely positive and thanks were given for the work of Mary Stanton and whanau and the perseverance and tenacity of the LWQS.

At the invitation of EBOP, a group of us is off to visit a herd home at Lake Okaro and walk around the wetland area. Seeing change in action is far more memorable than

simply reading about it.

WASTE MINIMISATION

As many of you are aware, the problems of waste can be a major issue in your communities and we have an opportunity to make some changes to our current waste strategy. We have established a subcommittee to look at all aspects of our waste stream and we welcome your feedback. Any new policies are to be included in the LTCCP (Long Term Council Community Plan) due March 09. If you have something to add, please get in touch with your Lakes Community Board representative or contact me directly.

AIR QUALITY

This issue is as important for our region as lakes water quality from an environmental standpoint. A joint committee has been established along similar lines to the Lakes Strategy group with Environment Bay of Plenty, Rotorua District Council and the Crown represented. Unfortunately, Rotorua has the worst air quality in the North Island and we have until 2013 to do something about it. Our poor air quality not only affects our daily health but also has the potential to restrict the further development of our industrial and manufacturing sector. These are vital components in our economy.

Lastly, changes take time to filter through; often the biggest obstacle people face is their own preconceived ideas. As always, timing is everything, so keep plugging away with your good ideas, keep sending in submissions to council, it keeps us informed and in touch with what is really happening in your communities. Have a great summer.

Cr Karen Hunt

Charles Sturt

Greetings to the North Ward people covered in the publication area of the Lake Rotoiti Community Assn.

Earlier this year Council developed the Rating Model 234 which we all agreed should go out to the Public for consultation. It became very clear very early that we had got it wrong big time. This became apparent at the public meetings and with the 1400 written submissions as they started to flood in.

Those of us who wanted to intervene in the Rates Review Midstream have been fully vindicated. As you will see the 2008 Valuations have just been released, and these together with the proposal to remove the Urban Fence and the Rural Differential would create a huge impact on Rates to many people in my constituency.

Whilst many of us could see the wood for the trees and knew the outcome and anomalies of the Model proposed in the Rates Review, Mayor Winters and his supporters wanted due process to continue and what did it achieve? A lot of disharmony and a petition from 8000 people disgruntled that the COUNCIL was not listening to them.

After sitting there for four days the outcome was as predicted. We threw out model 234. While it was an exercise in futility there were outstanding written submissions from Damar Paints, Holmes Packaging, The Chamber and Brunswick residents, Jim Stanton and those from Okareka and Tarawera - and all have made a difference. People pleaded that their increases (some up over \$900) under the

proposed Model were not sustainable in a family situation or as single income earners. Many explained they were asset rich but cash poor. The only groups who supported the Capital system were moteliere and B&B operators who were wronged after the previous Valuation exercise.

On the instigation of the Mayor and Cr Searancke and Waaka it was suggested I should not be able to Chair the submissions as I had declared my opposition to the Model. This was opposed by the 'Tight five' as we have been called in the Media. CR Martin insisted that a legal opinion be gained to ensure it was not a personal attack on me. Well the truth is I didn't want to hear them. There was enough anger in the community as unlike others, I fronted the Public meetings with John Paul Gaston and heard and read the submissions without going thru a charade of sitting there for four days to re-hear them.

Thanks to Cr McVicker, Cr Wepa, Cr Maxwell and Cr Martin for their personal support. Sometimes it's lonely when you have to make a stand but to have people like the above support what you believe is right makes me more determined.

Where to from here? After Cr Donaldson and Hunt moved that the Rates review be referred back to the Finance committee we can now set about getting some models together which use targeted rates, increase the UAGC, commit to the difference between Rural and Urban Ratepayers with the differential and reduce the General Rate by creating meaningful targeted rates. We have asked for models that incorporate charging certain targeted Rates on Capital value while retaining Land Value for the remainder of the General Rate. I hope that my colleagues have listened to the submissions and will incorporate some excellent suggestions. I'm sure they will. I have been an advocate that the UAGC must detail the items it is charging for. It should be transparent and cover items that are of benefit to all ratepayers regardless of where they live in the District.

To those of you who took the time to make written submissions my heartfelt thanks. You have made a difference. You will be invited to be part of the process when we release some more models for you to consider.

On a personal note thanks to all of you for your good wishes during my recent stay in hospital. I now have a clean bill of health and I'm walking at least an hour a day. So I'm back up on the bike so to speak and I have some ambitious plans in the future and again I will need your support which I have enjoyed for 18 years now. It is an Honour to serve your community and I'm not finished yet. While you may not always agree with me I believe in Trust, Honesty and Integrity and to serve only the people. To my wife of 30 years in March 2009 Denise and our children Elizabeth, William and Cameron many many thanks, you are my rock.

Can I wish you all a Very Merry Xmas and have a great family time over the festive season. Be safe on the Roads and Lakes. Can I say a special thanks to Lindsay Brighthouse, Jim Stanton and Sally Brock for the work you have also done over many many years for the LRCA.

Cr Charles Sturt

From Your MP

Steve Chadwick, Labour List M.P.

I had decided that in order to accept change I should stand aside and allow Todd McClay the new electorate M.P. to have the space to work as the face for change for Rotorua.

However, I and the Labour government have invested too much in this district for the last nine years to stand back and simply be a passenger observing the future of our iconic Rotorua Lakes.

My new role will be to keep the in-coming government honest and accountable as a player in the Lakes Water Quality restoration project. I have the Labour Spokesperson role on Conservation issues and in this capacity I will be monitoring work on the Sustainable Water Programme of Action now lead by the Hon. Nick Smith as the Minister for the Environment.

He knows the complexity and inter-relatedness of the issues that we face in order to clean up the lakes and rivers.

Water quality issues will dominate the next term of office and there are already conflicting messages causing confusion and forestry sector investor wobbles, arising from the Coalition agreement with the Act party that will be of great interest to us locally. Nowhere else in the country are both forestry and farming impacts so evident as we measure the effects of nitrates and phosphates on our Lakes.

National has agreed to delay the Emissions Trading Scheme (the E.T.S.) to allow consultation with all sectors over the next nine months. This is not a good omen for this district as we had collectively begun the journey of accepting the inevitability of land use changes for dairying and also drawn the line in the sand on the level of deforestation with the Permanent Forest Sink initiative that put a commercial carbon value on forests. This commenced from April this year and effectively stopped the pace of deforestation seen in the Rotorua / Taupo region, something Nick Smith railed constantly against and yet he is now a Minister in a government that has agreed to slow the pace of change for political expediency.

We need to watch that the public health Sewage Water Subsidy Scheme commitment of \$72.1 million is not altered in the coming three years and that the tripartite relationship on the Lakes Water project continues with a Ministry for the Environment involvement alongside the Rotorua District Council and the B.O.P. Regional Council. Although I would have preferred to be around the Cabinet table advocating for funding and policy implementation I can now see a new role for me and I will be there!

Have a great Christmas.

We say goodbye to Steve as our Electorate MP, we thank her for all her service and support over the years and wish her well in her new roles. We also welcome our new MP Todd McClay and will be inviting him to contribute this column from June; unfortunately, there was not time this issue

Land Management Update – EBOP

The past few years has seen a huge effort gone into riparian and biodiversity work along the shores and streams of Lake Rotoiti. Environment Bay of Plenty staff are working alongside the individual farm trusts around the Rotoiti catchment to protect and enhance the waterways, lake shore and specific locations with high biodiversity values.

Work over these properties has included over seven kilometres of stock proof fencing, planting of over 7,300 native plants and the removal of pest plant and pest animal threats. Some of the high-lights include the protection of the biggest remaining Swamp Maire population in Rotorua, meeting people who are now using these areas to collect medicinal plants and receiving reports of Kokako in our native bush.

This work is now evident in areas such as Te Arero Bay, Tokerau Bay, Ngapuka Bay, Lake Te Hapua and Otairoa Beach. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the commitment from the various trusts and owners' in particular Paritangi Maori Lands, Tokerau A15, Tokerau A14b2, Crump Family, Vercoe Family Trust, as well as Nga Whenua Rahui and Rotorua District Council.

The community plantings around Okere Falls are currently looking amazing. A big thank you to everyone involved, especially the organisational work done by Sally Brock. There is a need for a person/s to carry on with the co-ordinations of this work, if you are interested please contact Ben Banks 029 201 7577 or Mel Whiting 021 2741176.

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Classic and Wooden Boats

Annual Fishing Contest

The Classic & Wooden Boat Association held their annual fishing contest over Labour Weekend. Inclement weather, and at times strong southerlies, saw fewer entries than usual, and only eight trout were weighed in by closing bell on Sunday afternoon.

Results

Heaviest Trout 4 lb 4 oz)	Peter Taylor
Best Looking Trout	Noel Nicholson
Lucky Mystery Weight	Allen Buscke
Smallest Trout	Tony Mitchell
Women's Trout	Christine Mitchell
Best Trout Story	Gus Gardner
Best Jiggers Trout	Grant Cossey

Many thanks to our judges, Faye and Brian Stamp. Following the weigh in a BBQ and music was enjoyed by an enthusiastic crowd at Cherie and Bill Fowlers. The first new toilet at Cherry Bay has been erected, and is now in working order. The Second toilet at Terero Bay is to be erected early November.

2009 Calendars

These are now available at \$20, please contact Alex Buchanan alecb@farmside.co.nz

Coming Events

Jan 2nd	Poker Run
Jan 25th	Dinghy Races
Feb 6th	Mix & Mingle on Rathbone's lawn
Feb 7th	Annual Classic & Wooden Boats Parade
Feb 8th	Seagull & Yacht Races
Apr 10th	Good Friday Light Parade

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Fish & Game Update

The opening of the 2008-09 trout fishing season saw a total of 735 anglers interviewed on Lakes Rotoiti (299), Tarawera (288) and Okataina (48). These numbers were lower than those surveyed last year but given that October 1st fell on Wednesday with high winds forecast, the turnout was pleasing. Many people probably decided to work on opening day and wait until the Saturday that was only a couple of days away.

The Lake Rotoiti 2-year-olds were slightly shorter than the results from last opening, although the average weight was a bit heavier and therefore they were in better condition. Catch rate was slightly better than last opening with 0.6 fish/angler surveyed. Traditionally this is about equal to the long term average for Rotoiti on Opening Day. Deeper trolling methods produced the best results whilst many anglers tried to anchor up in sheltered areas and jig, which is not the best way to catch fish.

The Ohau Channel started very well on Opening Day with most anglers at the Rotorua end catching a fish. By 9am in the morning the surveyors from Aquatek Environmental had weighed in 64 fish with the largest a 3.79kg rainbow hen. On the following day (Thursday) browns of 5.78kg, 5.47kg and 5.89kg were caught.

Generally most people were described as very happy with how the opening at the Channel had gone. The signs at this stage point toward there being no significant effects on the fishery created by the construction of the Ohau Channel Wall. Since then a brown hen of 7.57kg (80cm) was landed by Firkit Ali from Auckland.

Aquatek will be continuing angler creel surveys at the channel throughout the summer, so please give them a few minutes of your time.

Summer Surveys

Fish & Game staff will be conducting summer creel surveys on Lake Rotoiti starting mid-November and going through to mid-April. This provides us with important information regarding the health of the fishery and assists in making management decisions such as liberation strategies. These surveys are relatively painless, and involve a few questions as we weigh and measure your catch. Keep an eye out for our new blue boat "WHIO" on the water this summer and please ensure you carry your fishing licence on you at all times when fishing. We thank you for your co-operation.

Didymo and Aquatic Pests

Didymo is still not in the North Island (defying expectations). We want to keep it that way along with keeping out other aquatic pests (koi carp, catfish) and pest weeds.

Wash down your boats and gear with a 5% solution of dishwashing detergent (50ml detergent/ Litre water) and make sure all the weed fragments are removed from your trailers. This is quick and simple and can be done as you tie down your boat and remove the bung. EBOP will be out encouraging and reminding people this summer with "Check, Clean, Dry" advocates around the region.

You may also notice the new weed cordon in place on Lake Rotoma at the boat ramp by the motor camp. This is designed to trap weed fragments and hold them until spraying can be undertaken on the confined area. These cordons may also become a common sight around other ramps throughout the region if the trial proves successful.

Matt Osborne

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From the Community Board

Since it's inception in October 2007, the Rotorua Lakes Community Board has sought to represent and act as an advocate for the Community, has considered and reported on matters of interest, prepared annual submissions to Council's Annual Planning process, engaged with community groups within the Community, and has acted at all times in accordance with the responsibilities and authorities delegated to it by Council.

More specifically, the Board has:

- Held meetings six weekly in accordance with Council's meeting cycle, half of which have been held in locations within the Community;
- Engaged with members of the Community through 'Community Forums' held at the beginning of each meeting;
- Attended AGMs and other meetings of community groups on a regular basis;
- Organised bus trips in June 2008 to all areas of the Community for Councillors, Council officers and Board members to meet community representatives on site to discuss matters of concern;
- Sought and obtained funding in the Annual Plan for works on the Blue Lake/Green Lake carpark and Boyes Beach, Lake Okareka;
- Supported maintenance works at Otautu Bay and Kennedy Bay, Lake Rotoehu and Gisborne Point, Lake Rotoiti;
- Attended Council workshops for Annual and LTCCP planning, District planning, and rating review workshops;
- Communicated all aspects of the above to Council and the Community as appropriate;
- Surveyed land owners in the Community, using ratepayer databases at no cost to Council, regarding waste minimisation and reported the results back to the Waste Minimisation Sub-Committee;
- Held a community meeting regarding Boy Racer issues in Takinga and adjoining streets in Mourea involving Wayne Harper (community constable), Barrie Fenton

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Rotorua Lakes Community Board PROPOSED 2009 MEETING DATES

Feb 12th at 7.00 pm Lake Rotoma

Mar 26th at 1.30 pm Rotorua District Council

May 7th at 7.00 pm Lake Tarawera

Jun 25th at 1.30 pm Rotorua District Council

Aug 6th at 7.00 pm Lake Rotoiti

Sep 17th at 1.30 pm Rotorua District Council

Oct 29th at 7.00 pm Lake Okareka

Please confirm Dates and Venues with RDC or by contacting any Community Board member

(community support co-ordinator), Rob Pitkethley and F & G's compliance officer (Eastern Fish & Game), Juanita Seymour and Dennis Olliver (RDC) and North Ward Councillors.

While the Board's meeting programme for 2009 has not yet been finalised, it is expected that it will be similar to this year's with meetings being held at Lakes Rotoma, Tarawera, Rotoiti, and Okareka with alternate meetings being held at the Council offices. We anticipate dates and times will be available by the end of the year.

All meetings are preceded with a 'Community Forum' which provides residents with the opportunity to come along and in an informal way, tell us of their issues or concerns. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity. Your comments will be presented to the Council for their consideration and I believe it is fair to say that most of the initiatives the Board has worked on this year were originally raised at these Community Forums. Alternately, we invite you can contact any member of the Board as follows:

Geoff Palmer (Okareka) (07) 362 8379 geoff.palmer@xtra.co.nz;

Phillip Karauna (Rotoma/Rotoehu) (07) 362 0029 (027) 352 5298;

Karen Hunt (North Ward Councillor) (07) 349 3230 karen.north.ward@xtra.co.nz;

Dave Donaldson (East Ward Councillor) (07) 345 7572 dworld@orcon.net.nz;

Neil Callaghan (Tarawera) (0274) 882 873 nngaire@wave.co.nz;

Brentleigh Bond (Rotoiti) (07) 362 4700 grahamb@clear.net.nz

Following the success of the bus trip in June this year, the Board is planning a repeat trip and is looking at sometime in March 2009 or shortly thereafter. If you would like the Board with Councillors and RDC officers to meet you on site to look at and discuss your particular issue, please let us know.

We look forward with enthusiasm to being of service to you next year. Kind regards and we wish you a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

*Brentleigh Bond
Chair, Rotorua Lakes Community Board*

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the LRCA held on 6 January 2008 at the Pikiaro Rugby League Club

Present

Steve Chadwick (MP and Cabinet Minister); RDC Councillors Hunt, Waaka, Sturt, Maxwell, Bentley, McVicar, Donaldson; EBOP Councillors Cronin, (Chair), Oppert, Ford; Life Members Jim and Mary Stanton and Lindsay Brighthouse; RDC Executive Jean-Paul Gaston; Neil Callahan (Tarawera Ratepayers); LRCA Committee Members Sally Brock, John Green, Ann Green, Geoff Turner, Glenys Wilson, Brentleigh Bond; EBOP Executive Andy Bruere; 87 Members.

Apologies

Kevin Winter (RDC Mayor), Te Uroroa Flavell (MP), Rob Pitkethly, Nico Claasen, Richard Wilson, Claire, Steve Howard, Jock Shoeller, Tai Eru.

Moved Sally Brock, Seconded Geoff Turner that the apologies be accepted. Carried

Minutes of 2007 Annual General Meeting

Moved Jim Stanton, Seconded B Bond that the 2007 AGM minutes circulated be taken as read and approved. Carried

Matters arising

1. Water

Jim Stanton asked of the RDC representatives as to what progress had been made in respect of:

- (i) The Harrison Grierson report of 2006 and its recommendations.
- (ii) Has the Waipa abstraction consent been renewed.
- (iii) What progress had been made on reducing water loss in the urban supply area.

Councillor Sturt responded that nothing had been implemented from the Harrison Grierson report but that it will shortly come before the RDC and the Community Board. Rotoiti water supply is a project that will be carried forward for action in February/March 2008. There is a renewed vigour for water supply progress and that the aquifer under the Mourea Plateau raised at the 2007 AGM has been followed up and is under consideration.

Mary Stanton spoke in support of a potable water supply for Mourea and Okawa Bay and moved "that a feasibility study for the securing of a good quality potable water supply to New Zealand Health Authority Standards be completed in 2008 for Mourea/Okawa Bay (as one area)". Seconded Nick Miller. Carried.

Mary Stanton also requested RDC to carry out a survey of how many houses in Mourea/Okawa Bay are interested in connecting to mains water supply, as she perceived there to have been a change in attitude since the last survey.

Charles Sturt spoke in support of a survey and expressed the view of a need to review public opinion.

Nick Miller spoke in support, outlining the health dangers he perceived to exist from those currently on bore water in the area.

Steve Chadwick addressed the meeting advising that the Public Water Drinking Bill had finally come before the house, some 16 years after its initial introduction. She cautioned, however, that the Bill was probably going to be voted down through cost implications.

2. Shand Report

Jim Stanton asked Steve Chadwick as to how the Government was going to implement the Shand report.

Steve Chadwick replied that several aspects are under recommendation and will be announced in March and will be part of the election manifesto.

3. East Rotoiti Transfer Station

Bob Armstrong referred to the items of East Rotoiti rubbish transfer station and sewage in last years minutes and queried progress.

Councillor Sturt advised that a new site has been found in Curtis Road which is currently undergoing notified consent processes. A number of sites had been mooted in this road but all previous ones had been rejected under opposition. The current site is the subject of a joint hearing of RDC and EPOB.

Campbell Johnston advised that the Curtis Road site now under current consideration is at the corner of State Highway 30 and Curtis Road and was wetland of some significance. Accordingly he would be opposing it not out of personal objection but on environmental grounds.

Bob Armstrong moved "that this meeting fully support the proposal to construct and operate a rubbish transfer station in Curtis Road". Seconded Michael McCarthy. Carried

Nick Miller and Mary Stanton spoke in support of the concept of the establishment of a rubbish transfer site as environmentally beneficial.

Charles Sturt said that the continuation of the Hinehopu site was not a possible option as the land was owned by Transit who wanted it back. Motion carried with Dave Rowe and Campbell Johnston opposing.

4. Sewage

Steve Chadwick reported that at the last Cabinet meeting of the year a paper which had been drafted with the help of the Ministry of Environment, was considered. It contained cost options within it of \$23 million and \$30 million subsidies. She reported that the paper was the subject of a number of challenges around the cabinet table with some Ministers saying it was a Ratepayer problem. Notwithstanding, in conclusion an agreement in principle was reached that sewage remediation around the lakes needed to be taken, but that the costs should be spread amongst a number of parties. Treasury was requested to assess the two options with a view to including a recommendation in the 2008 March budget round. She assured the meeting there was an absolute bottom line commitment to a base of \$19 million and hopefully there would be an improvement on that.

5. Didymo

Steve Chadwick spoke on this topic and advised that Steve Smith of Fish and Game is the New Zealand expert and sadly his advice is that it is almost not if, but when, Didymo will reach North Island lakes (unless everybody is very diligent in terms of cleaning). John LaRoche(?) asked Steve Chadwick if the Government would ban television advertisements showing vehicles being driven up rivers. She advised that such type of bans would not be effective and the best way was for individuals to ensure the cleaning of boats, trailers, fishing gear etc after use in affected areas.

6. Jetskis

Richard Leary noted that Jetskis continue to be a problem and outlined a factual situation where a jetski had injured a swimmer. On being drawn to the attention of the Harbour Master a censure only resulted. He related how he had called into the Police Station and queried the lack of appropriateness of such a response. He reported that the Police advice was that they could prosecute for assault, but only if the incident was reported to the Police. Richard accordingly suggested that in such situations members should complain to both the Harbour Master and the Police.

Bob Armstrong queried whether, as requested at last years AGM, the Harbour Master was present at this meeting and if not, why not. Sally Brock responded that she and Peter Carr-Smith had followed up on that request and discussed the issues with the Harbour Master and Andy Bruere. Sally concurred with the suggestion that complaints should be made to both the Police and the Harbour Master.

Coastguard

Lindsay Brighthouse spoke generally as to Lake emergencies, and noted that whilst VHF radio channel 64 used to be the prime means of communication in an emergency, heavier reliance was now made on the use of cellphone calls to 111. He advised that the Police when so contacted immediately referred the matter to the Coastguard who run a very efficient service with their three boats.

Financial Report

Brentleigh Bond presented his financial report and confirmed that the LRCA had recently secured registered charity status, which made matters substantially less burdensome with the doing away with the need for tax returns and the like. He reported that the accounts had been audited by Ivan Thompson.

Moved B Bond, seconded John Green that the financial report be accepted and that Ivan Thompson be reappointed as auditor. Carried.

Community Board

Brentleigh Bond reported (as attached) and encouraged members to participate and interact with him and the other Community Board members. He confirmed that Community Board meetings, dates, and places, and agendas, will be advertised in the press. Lindsay Brighthouse spoke in support of the establishment of the Community Board and outlined the lengthy battle involved in securing one. He noted that he looked forward to its success in the future.

Lakes Water Quality Society

Chairman John Green outlined the year's activities and noted that every major lake was represented on the LWQS other than Rotorua. He said that good progress had been made on the construction of the diversion wall under Andrew Bruere's stewardship, and that it would be completed by the end of March 2008.

John outlined the principle area of concern as being the planning process for each lake, included assigning a trophic level index – historic and current – so as to allow any differences to be monitored. He stated that Rule 11 applied to the five worst lakes in the district, and caps the levels of discharge from the land in a stringent way. He noted Rotoiti and Rotorua are joined as one under the plan. The public submissions process had not been completed by the end of the year (2007) as anticipated and he hoped it would recommence by the beginning of June. It will need large staff input to monitor. John noted he was really concerned about the planning process as a lot of slippage was occurring in terms of achieving plan completion deadlines. He encouraged people to attend the LWQS AGM which is to be held on 28 January 2008 at 10am at the Pikiao Rugby League Clubrooms.

Classic Boats

Buzz Rathbone spoke about the success of the New Year parade and reported a grant of \$40,000 had been received for 4 compost toilets, two of which would be installed in 2008.

EBOP Report

Andy Bruere, EPOB Lakes Coordinator spoke and outlined restructuring changes at EPOB including the loss of Paul Dell

in the process. Andy confirmed however, that Paul had left a clear pathway map for future action.

He reported that in 2007 an MOU as to the lakes was achieved and the Government funding process was underway.

He also spoke about the diversion wall and confirmed that the tying of it into the land had yet to occur. He confirmed permission exists to land the wall at a particular point but another option existed which was currently the subject of an application to the Maori Land Court. Either way he confirmed that the wall will be landed by the end of March 2008.

EBOP will be monitoring the success of the wall and its effects on fishing. He advised that in his opinion the wall would not cause problems in Okere Arm. In answer to Lindsay Brighthouse he advised that a flow meter would be installed to regulate, monitor and ensure there is no reverse flow.

Z2 placement in Lake Okaro appeared to be successful and if that was confirmed it may well be applied to other lakes.

PHOS locking in the Utahina Stream also appeared to be going well. This too may be extended elsewhere.

Land Use Futures Board. He outlined that farmers need to reduce farm nutrients getting into the ground water, but that the issue was going to be put back to the farming industry before making particular rules. John Green spoke of the delays in implementing a Rule 11 process in the other non-complying lakes. Andy responded that targets were being set, and of the intention to advance the review of Rule 11 plans for the future.

Elections

Chairperson - Sally Brock called for nominations for the position of Chairperson but none were received. Sally Brock moved, seconded Brentleigh Bond that the incoming committee be empowered to appoint a chairman from within its ranks. Carried.

Treasurer – Sally Brock moved, seconded Geoff Turner that Brentleigh Bond be appointed treasurer. Carried.

Committee - Sally advised that of the current Committee Bill Kingi, Glenys Wilson, Steve Howard, Sally Brock and Nigel Brock were all standing down. She thanked them for their past service and nominated John Green, Ann Green, Phil Thomas, Geoff Turner from the 2007 Committee to be elected to the 2008 Committee. Seconded Campbell Johnston. Carried.

Moved Sally Brock, seconded Nick Miller that two new Committee Members, Gerald Plested and David Wilson, be elected to the Committee. Carried.

Moved John LaRoche, seconded Nick Miller that Simone Hetapore be elected to the Committee. Carried.

General Business

EBOP move

Lindsay Brighthouse spoke about his opposition of the EBOP move of its Head Office from Whakatane to Tauranga. He noted that the LRCA had supported this shift in its response to the EBOP Annual Plan. Lindsay noted that since then there have been big changes in public opinion reflected in the voting out of office in the 2007 election of those Councillors who had supported the move. He noted that there had been a legal proceeding filed by the Whakatane District Council by way of Judicial Review, which application was supported by Rotorua District Council with a contribution of \$50,000 to the cost. Lindsay Brighthouse asked the new committee to revisit its prior support, if this became an issue in the Judicial Review Hearing.

John Green spoke of the reason why LRCA supported the shift, advising that it was because the LRCA committee had been promised by EBOP a better service delivery for Rotorua if the head office moved to Tauranga.

EBOP chair John Cronin spoke to the meeting and confirmed that the hearing was by way of Judicial Review, that affidavits have been filed by all parties before Xmas and that a decision would be made by a Judge in Chambers after review of the affidavits and legal submissions presented. He said it was not a hearing open to the public, nor would evidence be called.

Lindsay Brighthouse asked John Cronin if the fact of the LRCA consent in its response to the Annual Draft Plan was included in EPOB's affidavits, but John Cronin was unable to answer.

Nick Miller spoke of his experience in the shift of Rodney Council offices from Helensville to Orewa and how as a consequence the little places had suffered. He doubted the shift from Whakatane to Tauranga would be beneficial to Lake Rotoiti.

Councillor Neil Oppert of EBOP (who had opposed the move) said that the shift will occur unless the Judge in the Judicial Review, orders otherwise. He said EBOP would not of its own volition review its prior decision as a majority existed to continue with the move.

Notwithstanding, EBOP Councillor Robin Ford and Lindsay Brighthouse asked the meeting to pass a motion in opposition to the move. Sally asked the meeting as to whether anybody was prepared to propose a motion. After some discussion a motion was put by Anita Devcich seconded by Glenys Simpson that "LRCA no longer supports the move of EBOP from Whakatane to Tauranga". Voted by show of hands. Carried, by a majority of approximately two thirds to one third.

Lakes Structures

Nick Miller asked as to whether jurisdiction for all structures in the lake had been transferred to EBOP. Andy Bruere replied that the transfer had now been fully achieved and that all consenting processes now lay with EBOP. Some applications were pending to the RDC and it maybe that EBOP will engage RDC as its agent to complete these outstanding applications.

EBOP Maori Councillors

Jim Stanton asked the meeting to acknowledge former Councillor Tai Eru's great contribution to the LRRRA and LRCA and to EBOP over many many years. The meeting endorsed his contribution with applause. He also asked the meeting to note Hawea Vercoe's lack of attendance at this meeting.

Life Members

Jim Stanton noted that five life members of the association have been appointed, three of whom (Jim Stanton, Mary Stanton and Lindsay Brighthouse) were present here today. Absent were Theo de Lange who had died and Tu Kingi. Tu's health was not good, but Jim reported his interest in the association had not diminished.

Sally Brock

Charles Sturt, Steve Chadwick and Geoff Turner all spoke in glowing terms of Sally Brock's contribution as Chairperson over the last four years and the meeting recorded its appreciation of Sally's contribution by acclaim.

Diversion Wall Lighting and GPS position

Aaron Martin spoke of the need for reflectors as well as navigations lights on the diversion wall as it was difficult to see the wall at night time. He further suggested the need for protection around the end of the wall as it was considered quite dangerous in its current state..

Closure

The meeting closed at 11.55am.

Guest Speaker Presentation

Jean-Paul Gaston, the new director of Corporate Services at RDC presented a very informative paper on the rates review process currently being undertaken by RDC (attached).

The Pastor

In France, the young assistant pastors do not live in the main rectory. That is reserved for the Pastor and his housekeeper.

One day the Pastor invited his new young assistant pastor to have dinner at the rectory. While being served, the young pastor noticed how shapely and lovely the housekeeper was and he wondered if there was something going on between the two.

After the meal was over, the Pastor assured the young priest that everything was purely professional and that she was the housekeeper and cook and that was that.

About a week later the housekeeper came to the Pastor and said, "Father, ever since the new assistant came for dinner I have not been able to find the beautiful silver gravy ladle. You don't suppose he took it, do you?"

The Pastor said, "Well, I doubt it but I'll write him a letter."

So he wrote: "Dear Father, I'm not saying you did take the gravy ladle and I'm not saying you did not take the gravy ladle, but the fact remains that it has been missing since you were here for dinner."

The young assistant received the letter and answered it by saying, "Dear Father Pastor, I'm not saying you do sleep with the housekeeper and I'm not saying you do not sleep with the housekeeper, but the fact remains that if you had slept in your own bed, you would have found the gravy ladle."

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LRCA CONTACT DETAILS

All written correspondence should be sent to:
The Secretary
LRCA
Postal Delivery Centre
Mourea 3074

Committee Contact Details:

Contact details for the 2009 Committee members
are available at
www.rototoiti.net

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	0800-368-267
- After Hours	07-921-3375
Coastguard	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

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Weekly Household Refuse Collection

Only RDC Official Bags will be collected
Place at kerbside by 8am on collection day
Lake Rotoiti Collection day is each MONDAY
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

Accident & Emergency Medical Centre

Cnr Arawa & Tutaneikai Sts, Rotorua

Ph 07-348-1000

Mon - Sat 8am - 10pm Sun 8am - 11.30pm

Ngapuna Health Centre

283-293 Te Ngae Rd, Rotorua

Ph 07-345-7412

Mon, Tues, Wed 9 - 4.30pm

Thurs 9 - 1pm Fri - Closed

Lakescare (Urgent) Pharmacy

Cnr Arawa & Tutaneikai Sts, Rotorua

Ph 07-348-4385

Sun - Sat 8.30am - 9.30pm

Te Ngae Pharmacy

Te Ngae Shopping Centre

ph 345-9678

Mon-Fri 8.30 - 5.30pm Sat 9am - 1pm

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