



# **LAKE ROTOITI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.**



**NEWSLETTER** DECEMBER 2009

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

### RESOURCE CONSENT RENEWALS FOR THE OKERE GATES AND THE OHAU CHANNEL WEIR

We are now facing serious issues that are surfacing in regard EBOP's intended application for the Resource Consent Renewals for the Okere Gates and the Ohau Channel Weir. The proposed changes to the Consents have substantial ramifications for all the community. Details of the proposed changes are set out in the Newsletter. I ask you to familiarise yourself with these changes and how they will affect you. I urge you to attend the Public Meeting on 3rd January to make your views known.

We believe that the current operating regime which has been in place for the last 12 years has worked well. This regime has controlled the level of Lake Rotoiti to within a 150 mm or 6 inch range. EBOP's proposal will, if adopted, see the lake levels operated within a 800 mm or 32 inch range. The proposed low level may see the lake level drop by 441 mm or 18 inches below the current low. This range may see flooding at various points around the lake and boat access issues for many existing jetties.

There appear to be serious implications for lake water quality issues with the possibility of Lake Rotorua waters returning into the main body of Lake Rotoiti should the latter's lake levels alter drastically.

### THE LAKES ROTORUA AND ROTOITI ACTION PLAN

In July 2009 The Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group recommended that The Lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti Action Plan be ratified by Te Arawa Lakes Trust, Rotorua District Council and Environment Bay of Plenty. The Plan proposed a formula that would see Lake Rotorua reach its water quality target in 240 years time, and then with half the necessary nutrient reduction dependant on science yet to be developed. This was obviously unacceptable.

Following major lobbying from within the community and to the Rotorua Chamber of Commerce and the Tourism Board the situation now is that the Action Plan has been:

- Approved by the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group
- Ratified by the Te Arawa Lakes Trust
- Ratified with a review caveat by Rotorua District Council
- Let to lie on the table by Environment Bay of Plenty

Our lakes are the backbone of our tourist industry and their health is of utmost importance to our community. Anyone driving along State Highway 33 can see the nutrient driven discolouration of the water flowing from Lake Rotorua through the Ohau Channel and being diverted towards the Kaituna River by the Diversion Wall. The future of Rotorua and its community will to a large extent be governed by the health and state of its lakes.

### CARE GROUP

Our Care Group has done an excellent job with their clean ups and plantings. They are always keen for additional help. See Jan's article in the Newsletter and if you have the time please do call her.

### COMMUNICATION:

It is becoming obvious to us that we need to have a platform to enable us to communicate with our members on urgent matters (such as those listed above) more quickly than our bi-annual newsletter. We have no intention of ceasing publication of the newsletter but would urge you to register your email address with us at [lrca@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lrca@xtra.co.nz). Should you have a neighbour (or be someone) who does not have access to the internet, could you arrange a "buddy" system where notification sent to one could be communicated to the other?

The Committee this year has been exceptional. I could not have functioned without the incredible assistance, tireless involvement, wealth of background knowledge and support that I have received. I certainly did not realise when I stepped into this position just how much work members of this Committee put in through the year. They are to be congratulated for the voluntary efforts they make to better our community.

Sadly, Helen Prior will be leaving New Zealand's shores. She has done a great job as Secretary but we are going to need a replacement. Please consider whether you can give time to support the Association. We do have a majority of the Committee locally based but a lot of us are from "out of town". Combining a trip to Rotoiti with a committee meeting isn't all bad! Please think of volunteering. Email us at [lrca@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lrca@xtra.co.nz).

Seasons greetings and may 2010 bring us all happiness, harmony and progress.

**HILARY PRIOR (CHAIRPERSON)**

# NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## OF THE LAKE ROTOITI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.

To be held at Pikiaro Rugby League Clubrooms, Takinga street, Mourea  
9.30 am Sunday 3rd January 2010

To be followed by a public meeting at 10.30 am at which the whole community is welcome  
Nau mai haere mai – all welcome

# LAKE LEVEL CONSENT RENEWALS UPDATE

In the last Newsletter, we notified members and residents of the impending Consent renewals for the structures and operation of the Okere Control gates which have primarily governed the levels of Lake Rotoiti since 1982. The existing consent has been in place since 1996 and is due to expire in June 2010. The consent is held by Environment Bay of Plenty's (EBOP) Rivers and Drainage Group and they are required to submit the renewal application before 31 December this year to enable ongoing operation under the present guidelines whilst the new proposals are considered.

A number of significant developments have eventuated since our last communication. First and foremost, we were advised by EBOP earlier in the year that under the Te Arawa Lakes Settlement Act 2006 (which saw 13 lakebeds including Rotoiti returned to Te Arawa) they now had an obligation to hold initial discussions with the new lakebed owners and seek their support for the formal applications for renewal. To facilitate this process, EBOP engaged Dr Kepa Morgan, a professional engineer of Ngati Pikiao (Rotoiti) descent to provide a governance and leadership role. These negotiations would be complemented by some technical modeling to be carried out and reported on by Aurecon NZ Ltd (formerly Connell Wagner). The results of these studies were intended to be available in sufficient time to allow for some consultation with the 'wider community' i.e. other stakeholders who may be affected by the proposals.

As it turned out, our first consultation

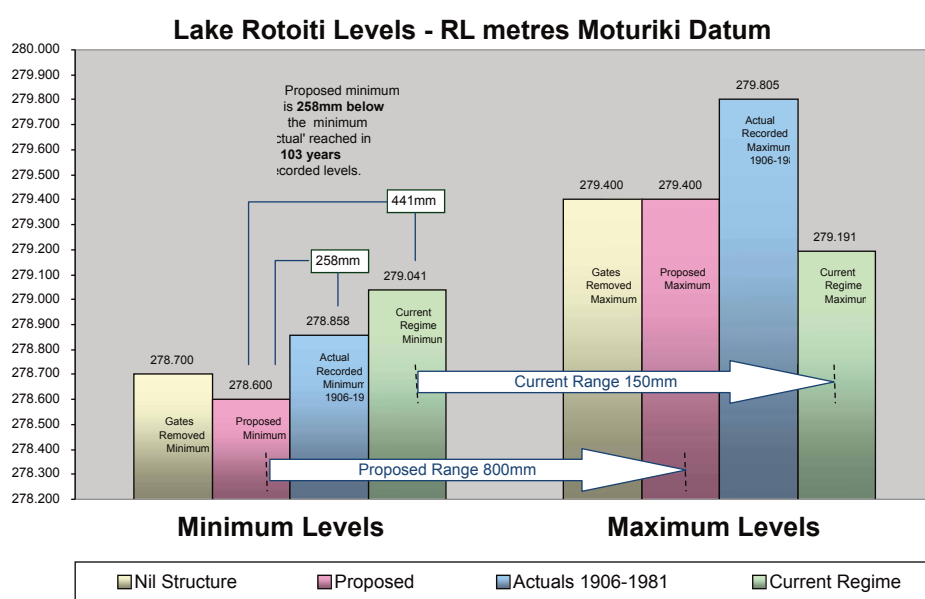
opportunity came at a Public Open Day on 28 October convened by EBOP and OPUS Consultants to allow interested parties to view the Proposed Draft Operating Conditions and Changes and ask questions and present views on the subject. This proposal was formulated from what is known as the Mauri Model which is designed to identify performance indicators, measures and options in relation to the Resource Management Act's four stipulated well-beings (environmental, cultural, social and economic). The proposal indicated that there was an intention to operate within a much wider range of levels than the present 150mm which was accepted as optimal in 1996 to allow for boat access and alleviate flooding for around 95 percent of the time. An invitation was subsequently sent out to key groups including LRCA to attend a workshop on 9 November to present and discuss further refinements to the Mauri model. In the event, this exercise could not be completed within the timeframe and left us uninformed as to how the all important matter of weightings (which provide the impetus for change) was determined.

We have had no further opportunity to debate the issue with EBOP who have since provided



limited information in response to additional questions and comment. What we do know is that in its upcoming Consent application, EBOP will propose an operating range of 800mm including a lower level which will be 258mm (10 inches) below the actual minimum ever reached since records were kept 103 years ago. We are, of course, mystified by this proposal and have some grave misgivings surrounding its intent. EBOP maintains that this will provide the flexibility to investigate changes, including additional consultation, between the time of lodgement and public notification (which will be sometime in the first half of next year).

The current situation has clearly led to growing concerns within the community. There are some strong reservations over the methodology being employed to assess the best management options for the future stability of both Lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti and the associated Kaituna river system down to the Maketu estuary with the Mauri model weightings seemingly based on some quite subjective measures. In the light of this, LRCA is conducting a PUBLIC MEETING at Pikiao Rugby League Clubrooms, Takinga Street, Mourea at 10.30 a.m. following a shortened AGM on 3 January 2010 to allow for wider dissemination of proposals to date and to seek guidance towards further immediate action to ensure that all affected stakeholders are adequately heard. The proposals being put forward would have a major impact on both the lake and its communities of interest. We strongly urge maximum attendance at this meeting



Lake Rotoiti Level Ranges (m) Moturiki Datum				
Operating Regime	Change from Current Minimum	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Range
Current Levels	Current minimum	279.041	279.191	150mm
Actual Levels	Lower by 183mm	278.858	279.805	947mm
Gates Removed	Lower by 341mm	278.700	279.400	700mm
Proposed Levels	Lower by 441mm	278.600	278.400	800mm



# ROTORUA LAKES COMMUNITY BOARD

**BRENTLEIGH BOND**

ROTORUA LAKES COMMUNITY BOARD

EMAIL: [GRAHAMB@CLEAR.NET.NZ](mailto:GRAHAMB@CLEAR.NET.NZ)

Doesn't time fly when you're having fun! While there may be much truth in the old saw, it seems hard to believe that the next elections for the Board will be held in October next year - 2010. Again, four people will be elected to the Board with a further two Councillors to be appointed by RDC. If you have an interest in improving the well-being of the Community and improving communication with Council, perhaps you would consider putting your hand up next October. It would be nice to again see representatives from each of the lakes on the Board, so give it some thought.

In March this year, the Board arranged another bus trip to the various areas in the Community. At each stop we met different groups of residents, but the message was the same - concern about the increasing number of visitors and boats, with cars and trailers, to our lakes, particularly over the summer and holiday periods. The Board considers that if Rotorua wants this growth, then it needs to invest in infrastructure to support it. Comment has been received that this infrastructure will bear a considerable cost while only providing a benefit for a relatively short period each year. The Board considers that tourism generally has high and low seasons and if we want the benefits of the high season peaks, we need to cater for this accordingly.

The Board has recently presented a 10 page report to the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes

Strategy Group (RDC, EBOP and Te Arawa Lakes Trust) which has resolved to fund a monitoring regime this coming summer to identify and assess the nature and extent of these growing pressures, and that RDC and EBOP jointly investigate whether the capacity and capability of current infrastructure is sufficient. Watch this space.

Following a survey undertaken in conjunction with ratepayer groups, the Board recently recommended extended hours of operation at the transfer stations for this coming December, January and February which Council has adopted as a three month trial. The extended hours at the Okere Falls transfer station can be viewed on the back page of this newsletter.

The contract has recently been let for the sewerage reticulation of Okere Falls, Otaramarae, Whangamarino and Lake Okareka with the new Low Pressure Grinder Pump system. An open day for residents to familiarise themselves with the grinder pump system was held at the Lake Rotoiti Holiday Park on the 22nd August. Thanks to Chris and Keith Waddell and the LRCA for their assistance. Work has started on this reticulation with the trunk main and reticulation to Lake Okareka. The work at Lake Rotoiti will commence when the Okareka work is completed - probably around October next year. It is great to see this reticulation of our lakes continuing.

Potentially the most serious issue to confront us is the expiry of the resource consent for the control gates at Okere Falls on the 30th June next year. This consent, and its predecessor, has served to control the levels of Lake Rotoiti for the past 28 years to alleviate both flooding and low lake levels.

New resource consents are currently being drafted by EBOP which may provide for the levels of Lake Rotoiti to be considerable different to those we have become accustomed to over recent years. A proposal recently put forward by EBOP provides for the minimum level of Lake Rotoiti to be lowered by 441 millimetres or 18 inches!!! What lake levels would you like to see for the future? Do you want to have your say?

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read that a public meeting will be held at the Pikiaro Rugby League Clubrooms, Mourea at 10.30 am on Sunday the 3rd January 2010. Environment Bay of Plenty will make a presentation of their proposal and you will have an opportunity to have your views heard. If this issue is of interest to you, we urge you to attend this meeting. It is important that EBOP understands the level of concern. Don't leave this one to others. Ensure your Rotoiti friends and neighbours are aware and bring them along too.

On behalf of the Board, I wish you all a really great Christmas and a bright and prosperous New Year.

## ROTOITI NEWS

In the year since I was elected, Rotorua has seen many exciting changes. The announcement of the trans Tasman flights to Sydney, moves towards new roading projects, the winning of many awards. It's a wonderful boost to Rotorua, and I am very proud of the city and its achievements.

Key to the continuing success of Rotorua is of course the health of our lakes. Much has achieved in this area, but still more can be done to make sure that our lakes return to their pristine condition sooner, ensuring that tourists continue to come and locals continue to enjoy a healthy environment.

The recently published audit results from Environment Bay of Plenty's farm effluent



treatment survey give some cause for concern. Although farmers have made efforts in this area, still more work

needs to be done to reduce this significant area of contribution towards nutrient inflow to Lake Rotorua. It is pleasing to see that the Rotoiti Sewerage Reticulation and Rotoiti Wall have both had positive effects on water quality. We must continue to work hard to reach agreement between all stakeholders to ensure that these gains continue. The Government continues to watch carefully developments around this important issue.

I would be happy to discuss this or any other issues with you - call my Rotorua Electorate office on 07 348 5871 to make an appointment.

**TODD MCCLAY** | MP. ROTORUA ELECTORATE

# LAKE ROTOITI CHARITABLE TRUST JUNE 2009

Greetings. Another year has passed, and I am pleased to report to you on the Trust's activities for the twelve months ended 31st March 2009.

The year has been tumultuous for financial markets both in New Zealand and globally with many commentators indicating that the preservation of capital has been a primary focus. Investment rates have tumbled to levels not seen for many years and we are all familiar with a number of large institutions reporting negative returns over recent months.

On the brighter side, a recent presentation in Rotorua by the Hon. Bill English (attended by one of our Trustees) indicated Government is expecting the bottom of the trough to be reached this side of Xmas 2009. It is to be hoped that when the sun starts shining in the spring, and with hopefully some good news

on the sporting front, people may again open their wallets and we can start on an upward trend.

Since its inception, the Trust has adopted a prudent and conservative approach to investments, has maintained its capital base and has also achieved a realistic, if declining, return during the year. We accordingly face the coming year in good heart.

The Trust of course exists to assist in charitable projects around our great lake and we are pleased to advise that the Trustees recently approved an application for funding from the West Rotoiti Fire Unit. We wish the Fire Unit every success with their project.

We of course are always keen to receive donations and we invite all to support our cause. Our ongoing ability to assist with charitable projects around the lake for the benefit of the community depends to a large

extent on donations being received and we thank those who have supported us in the past. IRD approved receipts for donations received will be sent to all and these will facilitate obtaining a tax rebate.

One of our Trustees, Sally Brock, moved to Wellington during the year. We extend our thanks to Sally for her past contribution and wish her well for the future. Nick Miller, a long time Rotoiti resident as been appointed to fill the vacancy left by Sally. We welcome Nick to the Board and look forward to working with him in the future.

Our web site can be viewed at [www.rototitcharitabletrust.co.nz](http://www.rototitcharitabletrust.co.nz) and we invite you to pay us a visit.

Kind regards  
H.J. Marston.

**HUGH MARSTON (CHAIR),**  
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES

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.....

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**4pm – 9pm Dinner**  
.....

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# WEST ROTOITI VOLUNTEER FIRE UNIT

The volunteer fire unit based in Okere Falls has seen a relatively incident free winter. However, training continued, and especially between July and September several weekends were booked out with training courses run by RDC. All new firefighters now have basic and advanced NZQA units to attend fire and rescue related incidents. We have good numbers of well-trained crew and should be able to attend emergencies during the upcoming summer.

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

Andi Uhl (ph 326 4264)

or Stuart Bathan (ph 326 4440).

I'd like to also make a note here again that the fire unit has, thanks to a grant from New Zealand Community Trust last year, a defibrillator at the fire station. 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.

With restricted fire season now in place (from 1st October 2009 to 30th April 2010) permits are required for all open fires. Please call the Rotorua District Council (ph 348 4199) to obtain a free fire permit or you may get a visit from the fire truck at your next rubbish fire! Incidentally, we already had to attend a gorse fire in the Okere Falls area in October that could have got well out of hand. Three fire trucks had to attend to put out the fire and hotspots.

We would like to thank all our supporters for their subscriptions and donations during the last year. This helps us a lot to keep the 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

# UPDATE: THE OKAWA BAY BROWN BULLHEAD CATFISH STORY

As we reported in April – Rotorua region's Catfish-free status may have been jeopardised after residents discovered a dead Brown Bullhead Catfish (catfish) washed up at Okawa Bay on Lake Rotoiti in January. Although catfish are a problem in the Waikato River system, including Lake Taupo, the Rotorua region has until now managed to remain catfish-free. Department of Conservation (DOC) staff along with EBOP undertook extensive netting surveys and scuba diving around the Okawa Bay area between January and March to try to detect whether catfish had established in the lake. Staff also worked on the weed harvester in March to see if any catfish turned up during this work. Despite all these efforts – no further catfish were found and there have been no other reports from the public in the ensuing months.

When we last reported, DOC had commissioned the University of Waikato to undertake an autopsy to try to establish the age of the fish and its origin (Lake Rotoiti or elsewhere)

The results indicate that the Okawa Bay Catfish was 7 years old.

Other outcomes of the work were less conclusive and gave four possible scenarios:

- That the fish was part of a breeding population in Lake Rotoiti from an accidental release via a boat trailer in 1995, although it is thought all fish were caught from this incident. This would mean that the population would have been undetected for 14 years although this is unlikely.



CROWN COPYRIGHT: DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION TE PAPA ATAWHAI 1997, PHOTOGRAPHER: GLENN MACLEAN

- That there has been a subsequent introduction (after 1995) of Catfish to Lake Rotoiti that has gone undetected
- The fish was unlikely to have come from Lake Taupo or spent any of its life there (Catfish have been present in Lake Taupo for some time)
- That the fish was recently translocated to Lake Rotoiti, dead or alive, from another waterbody, possibly in the Waikato River Basin.

The DNA tests on the Okawa Bay Catfish confirmed it was in fact a Brown Bullhead Catfish. There was some debate given that the fish was a very large specimen for New Zealand waters. Because no other Catfish have turned up in the course of our investigations, nor have we had any further reports, it is difficult to say

if this finding is an isolated incident and that there are no other Catfish in Lake Rotoiti or any other Rotorua Lakes. DOC and EBOP staff will be working this coming summer doing routine annual surveys to detect any new pest fish incursions. One of the lakes to be sampled will be Lake Rotoiti.

Unfortunately, we cannot be certain that a population does not currently exist in Lake Rotoiti and this is where we still need your help. If you see a fish which resembles the photograph (or any other fish you are not sure of), please give us a call.

The most important thing is to follow the steps below:

- If you have caught and killed a suspicious looking fish, please place the dead fish in a plastic bag and freeze. This will enable accurate identification later on.
- Record any other details you can remember about the sighting including time, location, how many you saw, colour of fish etc.

Call the Department of Conservation to report your find – during office hours on 07-349 7400 or after hours on the DOC Hotline 0800 362 468

The simple act of check, clean and dry all our fishing, kayak and boating equipment before we move between waterways. These actions can help keep our lakes pest free.

**JOHLENE KELLY**

RANGER - BIODIVERSITY (MONITORING ROTORUA LAKES AREA OFFICE, DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION)

## WEST ROTOITI CARE GROUP JAN WILKINS – PHONE 07 3624 976.

The Work Day scheduled for September 12th was postponed because of inclement weather. The following week seven hardy souls gathered at Ngarahu Point (Picnic). We had a great clean up and enhanced the picnic area, sprayed the gorse and generally made the area very appealing.

Whangamoa Point has had a further gorse spray it is looking much tidier and it is now more user friendly.

The November 28th Work Day will now be land based and we will concentrate on the plantings in Okawa Bay, Highway 33 (again!) and the area around the Control Gates. I would also like to clear the lower leaves of the flaxes at the beginning of Te Akau Road to make the

lawn mowing job easier for the contractor.

I have a question? Would residents prefer the work days to be scheduled at the weekend, or mid week? We usually attract the same helpers, most of whom have retired, but we would also like to include those of you who work but who would also like to contribute to the community. Your comments please? Also, we are always delighted to have non-resident home owners join us on our working parties. Please do call me to let me know that you are interested. We are working hard to reinstate our lake reserves and beaches for the enjoyment of all.

There will be another work day in mid March and a further one in mid May. Please let me

have a number to call you on once those dates are set.

The Scenic Reserve south of Ngarahu Point (Picnic) towards the Hot Pools (where the ski lane is located) has become so overgrown over the years that it is necessary for us to do several sprays to kill the gorse and other herbage, which means we will not be able to start the major clean up on this until May.

I would like to thank the many individuals and groups working to enhance certain areas around the shores of our lake; we are all indebted to these folk.

If you have any areas of concern or would like to help anytime please contact me.



# PULLING OUT THE RUG

## OR LAKE STRUCTURES ADMINISTRATION – THE ONGOING STORY

NICK MILLER | [NCMILLER@ORCON.NET.NZ](mailto:NCMILLER@ORCON.NET.NZ) | PH. 07 362 4747

Readers of previous chapters of this saga (in the last two issues of this LRCA newsletter) may recall that we had appealed some of the conditions of our Resource Consent (finally received after 121 weeks of delays caused by RDC ineffectiveness). We presented to a hearing in June before EBOP Councillors Karen Summerhays and Malcolm Whittaker, plus a couple of staff members. We gave them a Power Point presentation, which was largely devoted to illustrating, with photographs, some of the absurdities in certain conditions, particularly those relating to the visual appearance of lakes structures. We received a fair and friendly hearing.

We succeeded in getting some changes to

some of the consent conditions, not all that we would have liked, but enough to make the exercise worthwhile. If anyone else wants to appeal their conditions, and if the deadline to do so, following receipt of your consent, has expired, then you will need to make a special application and lodge a \$600 + application fee. A 'nice little earner' for the bureaucracy!

Now we're wondering why we spent so much time on this matter, since the proposed changes in Lake Rotoiti water level management may well render both our lakes structures largely useless for large parts of the year. To me it smacks of bad faith on the part of EBOP to make everyone jump through hoops to get new Resource Consents for their lakes structures (ramps,

jetties, boatsheds) and then pull the rug out from under our feet.

I think it is essential that, if this proposal makes it through the hearings process, all holders of consents agitate very loudly and publicly for the right to excavate lakebed areas adjacent to their structures, and to clear aquatic vegetation where necessary, so that they may continue to get some use from these structures. As an environmental consultant by profession, and as a long term user and observer of lakes structures, I believe that the environmental impacts of doing so will be minimal and certainly much less than the potential environmental impacts of the proposed changes in water level regimes.



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# GREETINGS TO ALL

CR CHARLES STURT

With the Xmas Season upon us Denise and I wish you all a very Merry Xmas and a great 2010.

Many many issues facing and being dealt with by Council and Lakes Water Quality is right up there. The Lakeside sewerage scheme experience in the Mourea/Okawa Bay area has seen us revise the policy and now Council will cost the schemes with connection to each and every house in the Sewerage scheme area. We need a 100% uptake from all residents whichever payment option is selected otherwise it defeats the purpose of extracing the Septic tank seepage away from the lakes catchment. I must pay a tribute to those in the Lakes Water Quality Assn who keep elected members fully aware of the issues and the need for Land Use change. With the Rotorua District Plan under review at the moment you will all get an opportunity to have a say in what Land use is suitable in your environs for the next 10-15 years. So when the opportunity comes around full involvement will be sought by lake users, farmers and the residents around our Lakes. The lakes Water action Plans have in my view not delivered for generations. They should have given councils a steer on what is acceptable land use and what should be phased in over time. The Nutrient

Budgets must be enforced and making things voluntary puts the issue on the never never.

There will be more opportunities through the regional and District Plans to effect change. This must be led by the community.

Shortly we will get our long awaited Waste Minimisation strategy which will come out for community consideration in 2010. The calls for kerbside and all that that involves is very complex. We are currently running very successful Recycling facilities at all the rural transfer stations, at the Landfill itself and at the in town centre. The volumes are huge and the more going through these facilities the less goes to the Landfill. Many options of kerbside are available and the biggest issue for on selling recycled material is to keep all glass away from paper and plastics as that devalues the product and limits the usage. There are good markets for good quality recycling and of all the amounts going to the recycling facilities none goes to the Land fill. We have been approached by a company who wants all the paper and cardboard they can get their hands on and I'm sure that type of approach at no cost to the ratepayers will be seriously looked at. There are many issues

to address. Plastics, paper, glass, tin, green-waste and general rubbish that is not recyclable.

The other issue facing us is do we contract the whole recycling system to contractors or get Castlecorp involved. Do we close the In town centre, do we supply bins to every property so they can sort the rubbish into four bins as they do in Sydney for example, Many many issues but we must get it right and do a top job for the future. I'm sure I wont have to face the issue of finding a new Landfill in the future but what a nightmare when Council does.

We join the whole community in passing on our deepest sympathy to the Kura Rotoiti and all the whanau at the recent tragic passing of my often sparring partner and friend HaweaVercoe. No person has been more passionate about a school in my memory and he was the strongest advocate for the pupils. The recent support he got from the parents and community was overwhelming. I along with many of my colleagues attended the tangi at Te Teko and the aroha and reflection of memories of one so young was deeply felt.

Short and sweet and happy Holidays to you all.

## KIA ORA

CR KAREN HUNT

2009 has been a big year at council with the Rotorua Airport ready for its first of many flights to and from Sydney on the 12th Dec. This is a significant milestone for our community as is the continued programme of sewerage reticulation here and around the other Te Arawa Lakes.

The focus for many is now on the Okere Gates and Ohau Weir with public consultation looking to be very robust. This will require everyone to consider a broader community perspective, not only of his or her own situation. My hope is you will seek first to understand where the other is coming from and show a willingness to entertain views other than your own. Only

then will we have a community that is working together for the benefit of all.

The other major project in our district is the review of our District plan this underpins most of what happens in our region. This review has been going on quietly behind the scenes as Councillors discuss issues ranging from minimum subdivision size to changes in rural zoning to assisting in providing more land use alternatives in lake or nutrient sensitive areas. While we are not nearing public notification of this plan yet, RDC staff are working hard to ensure we have enough information to have the right debate.

As the District Plan will affect everyone

in our district from city, commercial, industrial, urban, rural and lake dwellers please assist us with your feedback when the time comes.

Rotorua is poised for some major new initiatives with the CBD revitalisation and lakefront redevelopment getting the ball rolling. We live in a fascinating, beautiful and dramatic landscape with a beautiful city in the centre of it, remember to enjoy it this summer and have a safe and happy holiday season.

I have enjoyed meeting with you in your community and look forward to seeing you again in the New Year.

# ENVIRONMENT BAY OF PLENTY NEWS:

## ROTORUA LAKES PROGRAMME UPDATE

The actions specified in the Rotorua/Rotoiti Action Plan for Lake Rotoiti are now progressing well. The diversion wall was completed in 2008 and appears to have averted the discharge of algae bloom water into Lake Rotoiti over the autumn of 2009. The reticulation of sewage around the lakes continues to progress well. The initial stages of Okawa Bay and Mourea have had an impact with ongoing improvements in water quality for Okawa Bay. Over the autumn of 2009 Environment Bay of Plenty harvested weed from the bay to avoid weed stranding during northerly winds. They are now looking at the potential to harvest other weed areas as necessary.

A large part of the Government funding is earmarked for sewage reticulation. Rotorua District Council has recently let contracts for a number of schemes around the lakes including the Rotoiti communities of Whangamarino, Okere Falls and Otaramarae. This work is expected to be completed in 2011. This will complete all the immediate actions and the results of ongoing monitoring will be assessed to see if we need any further actions to improve water quality. However, the results of our annual TLI monitoring, (averaged over three years) has given Lake

Rotoiti a TLI of 3.9 for a second year in a row. This is very encouraging and indicates the TLI is moving towards its target of 3.5.

The programme requires significant and ongoing water and environmental monitoring work to be undertaken as part of our resource consent conditions. The monitoring reports can be found on the Environment Bay of Plenty web site at: <http://www.envbop.govt.nz/Environment/Technical-Reports.aspx>

Environment Bay of Plenty is continuing with its investigation work around renewal of the resource consents for the Okere Gates and Ohau Weir Control Structures. Consents expire in mid 2010, and the Council is planning to have new resource consent applications submitted by mid - December 2009. A community open day meeting was held on 28 October and a performance measure workshop held on 9 November to discuss the proposed changes to the operating regime. Through the Resource Management Act process, any member of the community can have an opportunity to have their say on the consent applications, which are planned to be publicly notified in mid 2010

## LAND MANAGEMENT UPDATE

**BEFORE AND AFTER PHOTOS OF SOIL EROSION (LIVESTOCK EXCLUSION).  
NORTHERN PART OF LAKE ROTOITI.**



**PHOTO 1. TAKEN IN 2001 NORTHERN LAKE ROTOITI. THE FOREGROUND SHOWS THE AMOUNT AND EXTENT OF SOIL LOSS THROUGH GULLY EROSION.**



**PHOTO 2: TAKEN IN 2009 SAME SITE AS ABOVE BUT WITH LITTLE SIGN OF SOIL LOSS. THE AREA HAS BEEN FENCED OFF FROM STOCK, PASTURE HAS RE-STABILISED THE SITE. GORSE HAS BEEN SPRAYED READY FOR NATIVE PLANTS TO BE PLANTED.**

As you can see, there has been a vast improvement to the area. All that was required was a fence in the appropriate place. If you have any

erosion on your property that you require advice on how to fix, please give me a ring: Ben Banks, Environment Bay of Plenty, 0800 368 267.

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## AQUATIC PESTS

The annual Land Information New Zealand lake weed spraying programme is currently part-way through and should be completed during November 2009. As in past years the programme has concentrated on boat ramps and high value amenity areas to help reduce the risk of aquatic pest spreading. Aquatic weeds are spread as fragments. In particular if the weed hornwort is spread and left to establish in the uninfected Lakes Okareka, Okataina, Rerewhakaaitu and Rotoma, the impact of this weed would change the character of these lakes forever.

Environment Bay of Plenty's aquatic pest dive monitoring programme is about to get underway. The programme aims to detect new infestations of lakeweed prior to them becoming well established so effective control can be carried out. Harvesting, to help manage lake nutrients, is again planned for Rotoehu; this will commence when lakeweed has reached peak growth around April. Harvesting may also be carried out on other lakes depending on weed growth.

As we have over the past four summers, Environment Bay of Plenty will again be employing students over the busy Christmas period to advise and educate waterway users of the threat that aquatic pests including pest plants, pest fish and Didymo present to the Bay of Plenty's waterways. The students will be out and about over the holidays with give-aways and information for boaties, fisherfolk, kayakers and all other lake users.

## BE BRIGHT! SHOW A LIGHT!

If you're heading out for early morning fishing, or making your way home after dusk, you need to be showing the right navigation lights. I'd hate to think how many "near misses" we've had reported to us recently with boats out there in the dark not showing any lights at all. Don't be a turkey! Be bright! Show a light at night!

### POWER BOATS IN ACTION:

If your boat is longer than 7 metres or does more than 7 knots, when you're out at night you'll need red and green sidelights, a white sternlight at the back and a white masthead "steaming" light. (As long as you're not longer than 12 metres, the white sternlight and masthead light are allowed to be combined into an all-round white light.)

If your boat is less than 7 metres and does less than 7 knots, you can get away with just showing an all-round white light.

### DRIFT FISHING FROM YOUR KAYAK?

If you're drifting, your kayak's "underway" so you'll need to show an all-round white light; or if you don't have one of those fitted, you must show a white torch in sufficient time to avoid a collision. The key words here are "in sufficient time to prevent collision". It's only common sense – and self defence – to make yourself easily seen!

### ANCHORED FISHING?

If you're anchored at night, whether you're fishing or not, you must show an anchor light. This is an all-round white light, and

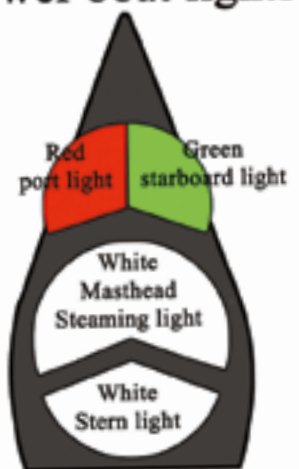
you must display it from sunset to sunrise. Don't show your red and green sidelights when you're at anchor! Kayaks, dinghies, jet skis, tinnies – anything sort of craft – if you're anchored you need to show a white anchor light.

### OTHER STUFF:

Of course, there are other navigational lights that you might spot if you're observant. Check out the Collision Regulations for more information – and why not bring yourself up to date by doing a Day Skipper course? The Coastguard Boating Education Service run excellent courses, phone 0800 408090.

Good fishing and be bright – be seen!

### Power boat lights



Power boats less than 12 metres in length may combine stern and masthead lights into one all round white light



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# ROTORUA LAKES COMMUNITY BOARD

## PROPOSED 2010 MEETING DATES

February 11

March 25

May 6

June 24

August 12

September 23

December 2

Please confirm dates and venues with RDC  
or by contacting any Community Board member.

## JUST AN EARLY REMINDER

9th October 2010 will see the local body elections take place.

The big change this year is that RDC, only, is changing from a Ward system to an at-large system. This means that you will be able to vote for all twelve Councillors that will sit at the Council table. It also means that now is the time to consider whether you want to make a difference and stand yourself!

As far as EBOP is concerned, they are staying with the Ward system. Two Councillors will be elected in the Rotorua constituency.

The Community Board article in this Newsletter is interesting in regard to the forthcoming elections. We would encourage people who can assist to stand.

## BAY PEST SERVICES

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- ☒ *Wasps - Bees*
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## TE AKAU POINT

To Hilary Prior

Chair. Lake Rotoiti Community Association.

I wish to point out an error on signs erected by Environment Bay of Plenty at boat ramps on Lake Rotoiti.

These signs relate to regulations for boaties with regard to the diversion wall at the Okere Arm of Lake Rotoiti.

Te Akau Point has been incorrectly named Namaste Point. Namaste Point was a name given to a residence at 187e Te Akau Road by the then owners of the property, and bears no relationship to the given Maori name for Te Akau Point which is printed on maps provided by Environment Bay of Plenty.

Would your organisation please take this up with the Regional Council. The mis-naming of this Point has caused much comment and needs to be rectified now. I believe this matter has been drawn to the attention of EBOP but nothing has been done to make the correction. It would be a pity if this name started appearing on maps of the area

I am a resident of Te Akau Road.

Yours sincerely

Jan Wilkins

## REBORN: SODA SPRINGS AT ROTOMA REOPEN

Many readers will recall from yesteryear the very popular Soda Springs at Rotoma/Rotoehu. A couple of dilapidated changing sheds and either Bill Emery or a young Willie collecting the admission fee and maintaining order.

An incredibly popular facility, especially of a winter evening, with many a romance fostered in amongst the shadows and the steam.

Sadly the operation wound down a long time ago, and generally the area went backwards, with the pools silting up over time, leaving a water depth of only a few inches.

Happily, Willie Emery in conjunction with the local hapu and others have been the instigators of a restoration project.

With valuable support from the trust owners, various Ngati Pikiao trusts and

incorporations, EBOP, Peter Dorfliger of NZ Log Chalets, and the local community, the restoration has been able to employ a number of locally unemployed young people under a community work scheme.

And how everyone has responded. New changing sheds, a new office, timber edging to the entirety of the pool, the pool substantially deepened, a new weir built, new entry steps, landscaping, planting, a bridge and even a walkway to Rotoehu is to be developed in the future.

Everyone involved in the project can feel justifiably proud. The pools are open seven days a week from 7.00 am to 9.30 pm.

Annual membership and concession cards are available.

A visit is a must.

**GEOFF TURNER**



In times of uncertainty call the Lakes Team for good advice and local knowledge...



Judy Guyton  
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Steve Howard  
M: 021 722 408



Lisa Crowe  
M: 0274 961 935

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# SUBMISSION ON PEST MANAGEMENT IN THE BAY OF PLENTY

The Lake Rotoiti Community Association supports the goals of protecting biodiversity, public health and community amenity. Control pests present in the Association's area include wild ginger, yellow flag iris and the aquatic plants weeds *Egeria densa*, *Elodea canadensis*, *Ceratophyllum demersum* (hornwort) and *Lagarosiphon major*. None of these plants are easy to control and it is difficult to see why the aquatic plants are placed in a category where "the responsibility will rest with the landowner/occupier."

There is no indication on how it would be decided whether control by landowners/occupiers is feasible. Pest plants and animals do not recognise property boundaries, so it is possible for one household working by control can be undermined by neighbours who are not, thus allowing re-invasion.

Some owners of holiday homes, who may value the 'bush or wilderness' of their property are likely to have a higher tolerance of woody weeds and vines and probably don't recognise some as weeds on their properties. These areas can provide cover for more insidious pest plants, such as climbing asparagus, mile-a-minute and wild ginger, often spread by birds.

If encouragement and regulation does not achieve control of pests in this category, then Council could take steps to undertake control, before it becomes completely impossible to achieve.

#### POSSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- Encouragement and support of neighbourhood groups working together (but this would probably include only the keen

people and few absentee owners);

- Staff and property owners working together at times of inspection;
- Staff with permission from owner/occupier, undertaking control;
- Contractors, acting with permission.
- Any control measures initiated by Council would need to be regularly followed up, with further action as necessary.
- Advisory pests. If these pests are not practical or cost-effective to control, why are they listed? Yet, there are problem plant and animal pests in this list. Rabbits, mustelids, rodents, possums, for example, can have severe effects on biodiversity values, and in a very short time can undo work of communities to improve local community and environmental values. Assistance with control of these pests can make a big difference to the ability of communities or landowners to work on their control.

Roadsides of main roads through the district can be a source of weeds, especially those spread by wind and traffic movement, such as pampas. It would be encouraging to landowners if such highly visible weeds were controlled, rather than left to spread onto private land. An example has been the pampas at the south end of the Mourea Hill, left to grow over many years. Control of such easily accessible outliers would prevent this spread.

The Lake Rotoiti area is unusual in the Rotorua District in that it enjoys a somewhat milder climate than most of the District. For this reason a number of weeds, generally regarded

as confined to warmer regions, are becoming a cause for concern. These include wild ginger (*Hedychium gardnerianum*), Chinese jasmine (*Jasminum polyanthum*), *Senecio petasitis*, climbing asparagus (*Asparagus scandens*), ivy (*Hedera helix*), and others. It would be valuable if EBOP was to initiate measures to encourage permanent and holiday residents to recognise these weeds and the threat which they pose, and to encourage, and assist with, appropriate control measures.

LRCA is concerned that *Cytisus* and *Genista*, which belong to the legumes (*Leguminosae*), broom, are not included on the Provisional Future Categories of Pest list. Like gorse it is acknowledged it fixes large amounts of nitrogen. This is not good in lake catchments. Additionally LRCA believes that Gorse should be listed as a Control Pest in view of its nitrogen fixing capabilities and the detrimental affect this has in lake catchments. We further believe that willow should be added to control pests on lake margins and major tourist tracks.

LRCA agrees that priority should be given to surveillance and undertaking early control to stop new pests establishing in the region but believes that existing pests should not be forgotten by Council.

LRCA seeks the opportunity to speak to its submission and requests that this take place at a Rotorua location. Additionally we would request a meeting with the relevant Councillors to discuss points of concern to our Association. Yours faithfully

**HILARY PRIOR**. CHAIRPERSON



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# LAKE ROTOITI CLASSIC & WOODEN BOAT ASSOCIATION INC

## ACTIVITIES REPORT – LRCWBA INC.

Planning is now underway for the upcoming annual events which form the main activities for the Assn. A Poker Run is planned for 2nd January and a Dinghy Day is planned for Sunday of Anniversary Weekend towards the end of January. This day will feature both dinghy and seagull outboard races along with sailing events.

The Annual Classic and Wooden Boats Parade will take place on the Saturday 6th February, commencing from Okere Arm at 10am and once again cruising through Okawa Bay at approx 10.45 am where good viewing is available from Okawa Bay Road. Following the Parade several regatta events are planned at which members will race dinghies powered by Seagull outboards, race a variety of sailing craft, test their skill in launch events as well as the usual beach activities.

The annual Light Parade is planned for Good

Friday of Easter Weekend.

Over the last 12 months we have welcomed approx 5 new launches to the Lake and a number of existing launches undergoing refit or changing hands. It is pleasing to note the population of old wooden boats domiciled on Lake Rotoiti continues to grow, strengthening the lakes position as number one for Classic and Wooden boats in the North Island.

The project involving the installation of composting toilets on four beaches around the western end of the lake will be completed by summer, and as these facilities have been placed for public use, a plea is made to users to abide by the rules concerning maintenance, and assist with housekeeping.

We are looking forward to another enjoyable seasons boating.

**CHRIS LAIRD. COMMODORE.**

The water quality of Lake Rotoiti has been dramatically impacted by the diversion wall. The water in the main body of the lake, which is protected by the diversion wall, looks significantly clearer and improved. We are very encouraged by what we see, however it will take several years before science can give us firm conclusions.

Water from Lake Rotorua over the last seven months has been very discoloured and full of nutrients. This poor water badly affects the Okere Arm, Kaituna River and the Maketu estuary. Residents in and around these areas have every right to be concerned and need to question Environment Bay of Plenty on what remedial actions can be taken to improve the water quality in those waters. The simple reality is that until Lake Rotorua is 'cleaned up' it's downstream waters will continue to be polluted.

Our Society this year has been heavily engaged with the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group partners to get action to fix Lake Rotorua. The current timeframe of over 200 years to clean up Lake Rotorua is not acceptable to our community. Councillors in both Rotorua District Council and Environment Bay of Plenty have been very receptive to our protestations on water quality issues. Underpinning change is the adoption of a revised Regional Policy Statement and District Plan which will enable the councils to bring about land use change and actions to reduce the nutrient footprint of land based activities to sustainable levels in the lakes' catchments.

On the 20th October 2009 EBOP announced the results of their effluent audit of the twenty seven dairy farms in the Lake Rotorua catchment. 50% of the sites had serious non-compliance issues. Dairying contributes approximately 38% of the nitrogen load to Lake Rotorua. We expect that EBOP will do its duty and take a tough stance on this non-compliance. It is now time to stop all forms of dairy farm pollution in the Lake Rotorua catchment.

**JOHN GREEN. CHAIRMAN**

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We welcome a new venture to Rotoiti this year.

Matt Annie, Tina and Don are the proud owners of Pure Cruise Ltd a luxury yacht charter business on Lake Rotoiti. Living locally and using Lake Rotoiti, they saw an opportunity to provide a unique New Zealand visitor experience, through sharing the manaakitanga (hospitality) and taonga (treasures) of our natural environment in genuine kiwi style.

Many of you may have noticed a beautiful new vessel, Tiua, sailing about the lake this year. She is a stylish and tastefully presented 53 foot sailing catamaran surveyed for up to 52 guests, providing a luxury eco-tourism sailing experience.

Pure Cruise Ltd offer private exclusive charters and a range of daily sailing options. They have their Summer Sailing Schedule on their website at [www.purecruise.co.nz](http://www.purecruise.co.nz). As well as lots of other

information and pictures.

Sound eco and sustainable tourism principles and practices are important to Matt, Annie, Tina and Don, and they say they are committed to creating minimal environmental impact.

Pure Cruise works closely with the Duxton Hotel, which provides them with a range of fine NZ cuisine from their award winning kitchen. Tiua is moored in the idyllic Okawa Bay on the Duxton Jetty.

They welcome any enquiries from people interested in finding out more.





# LAKE ROTOITI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.

## PRESENT

Robin Ford and Neil Oppert (EBOP Councillors)

Andy Bruere (EBOP Officer)

Maggie Bentley, Karen Hunt, Maureen Waaka,  
Dave Donaldson and Charles Sturt (RDC  
Councillors)

Peter Guerin (RDC CEO)

Brentleigh Bond, Geoff Palmer, Karen Hunt,  
Dave Donaldson and Neil Callaghan (Community  
Board Members)

Jim and Mary Stanton and Lindsay Brighthouse  
(Life Members)

The Right Hon Paul East

Brentleigh Bond, John Green, Ann Green, Phill  
Thomass, Geoff Turner, Gerald Plested and David  
Wilson (LRCA Committee Members)

Buzz Rathbone, (Commodore Classics and  
Wooden Boats Association)

56 LRCA members as per attached attendance  
sheet

## APOLOGIES

Todd McClay (Rotorua MP)

Caroline Hobbs (LRCA Member)

Kevin Winters (RDC Mayor)

Glenys Searancke (RDC Councillor)

## WELCOME

John Green chaired the meeting and welcomed  
all in attendance

## MINUTES OF 2008 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Moved, J Green. Seconded G Turner that the  
2008 AGM meeting minutes circulated be taken  
as read and approved (after amending Karen  
Bentley to Maggie Bentley). Carried.

## MATTERS ARISING

Water - Mary Stanton spoke and wished  
everyone a happy new year and indicated she  
would speak on the issue of Mourea Water  
under General Business.

Shand Report - John Green noted that the  
Government had not embraced it and the new  
minister is working through it.

Sewage - John Green noted that there had  
been a significant boost in funding from the  
Government late last year and considerably in  
excess of what Steve Chadwick had indicated at  
last year's AGM.

East Rotoiti Transfer Station - John Green  
reported that the Curtis Road site was dead  
and that RDC advised that it was up to  
the community to find an appropriate site  
whereupon the RDC would respond. A site has  
been identified at Lake Rotoma which looks  
likely to successfully proceed.

## LRCA COMMITTEE REPORT

John Green noted that all that the LRCA  
Committee had been involved in, had been  
substantively set out in the last newsletter.

## COMMUNITY BOARD REPORT

Brentleigh Bond addressed the meeting from his  
written report (attached).

At conclusion, Nick Miller complimented  
Brentleigh Bond on a very clear and concise  
report.

Comments on matters canvassed in Community  
Board Report

## RUBBISH

Fraser Wilson spoke on doing away with rubbish  
bags and the need to have kerbside recycling.  
Karen Hunt spoke at length as to the options on  
rubbish bags.

Glenys Wilson of Okawa Bay commented that  
recycling is a personal issue and if you don't  
believe in it you won't do it. She noted that  
there are good facilities available at the transfer  
station.

Lindsay Brighthouse spoke and said "if aint broke  
don't fix it". He personally thought the current  
operation operates excellently, to which there  
was general support from the floor.

Phill Thomass pointed out that it is hard to  
recycle in East Rotoiti with no transfer station.  
He spoke in favour of retaining the current  
regime but encouraged individuals to recycle  
anyway.

Heather Simpson spoke to the sticker scheme  
used in Franklin.

Mary Stanton spoke vehemently on the need to  
retain the Monday rubbish bag collection. Don't  
alter it she pleaded.

Karen Hunt assured the meeting that there was  
no question of a removal of rubbish collection  
but only possibly the annual bag delivery, after  
community consultation. She noted rubbish  
bags caused a disproportionately high amount  
of RDC officer time.

Nick Miller spoke against the introduction of  
wheelie bins.

Brentleigh Bond advised that the community  
board had done a survey of 800 houses in the  
lakes area and got 13 responses. He suggested  
this indicates that residents are happy with the  
status quo.

## OKERE CONTROL GATES

Brentleigh Bond stressed the need for all  
interested individuals to ensure that submissions  
were made when the application for a resource  
consent, (current one expires in June 2010) was  
advertised.

Bob Armstrong spoke as to the need to ensure  
the Okere control gates are retained and moved  
"that it be the policy of this Association that it

strongly supports the retention of the control  
gates on the outlet to Lake Rotoiti, and that the  
Association takes all steps to ensure a resource  
consent be reissued in 2010." Seconded by Paul  
East.

Neil Oppert spoke as to EBOP's role on the  
control gates, namely to first find out the  
community opinion and then react.

Peter Guerin outlined the RDC role as asset  
owner and regulatory controller. He advised that  
RDC will make a submission once it has the feel  
of the community opinion. He also noted that  
RDC will be making the application (to itself),  
possibly jointly with EBOP.

Robbie Sinclair spoke as to the importance of  
submissions. He outlined that when the RMA  
renewal consent for the Okawa Bay Resort to  
discharge sewage into Okawa Bay was made,  
only 5 people submitted. He noted that the  
renewal granted, allowed the Resort to continue  
to discharge sewage, all on the residents  
assumption that the RDC would be putting in  
a reticulated sewage scheme shortly. He noted  
that the community didn't put sufficient effort  
into securing conditions, and that sewage  
reticulation took many years to come to be. He  
pleaded with the meeting to not let a similar  
situation happen with the control gates.

Jim Stanton spoke as to the history of the gates.  
He noted they were put in under some protest.  
He noted it is an issue for local Iwi. He noted  
this issue came up in lake water quality terms  
recently in the Lake's Restoration Focus Group  
Committee, and that Professor David Hamilton  
had reported that if the gates are removed  
there would be no great difference to the ebb  
and flow of the lake. He advised that local Iwi  
were of the possible opinion that water quality  
will improve if the gates are removed. He spoke  
of the issues of flooding at the eastern end of  
the lake and boat shed problems in Okawa Bay  
and the Okere arm when lake levels dropped.  
He expressed his own personal opinion that the  
gates should stay, particularly when Professor  
Hamilton says the gate removal would make no  
great difference.

Hilary Prior asked if the Professor Hamilton  
report was available and Nick Miller advised  
that it could be located on the RDC website.

Mary Stanton spoke as to the effect the gates  
might have on water quality. She talked in some  
detail as to the position when she was a child  
and drew comparisons from the cuts made to  
the Ohau channel. She said Iwi will be thinking  
about water quality and the effects that a high  
water level may have as to homes and marae.

Bob Armstrong's motion was put to the meeting  
and carried without dissent.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LRCA HELD ON 4 JANUARY 2009 AT THE PIKIAO RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB

Brentleigh Bond spoke to the attached financial report which was distributed. Moved – Brentleigh Bond. Seconded – Phill Thomas that the financial report be received and that Ivan Thompson be reappointed as the auditor. Both carried.

## ELECTIONS

John Green noted that Brentleigh Bond, John Green, Ann Green and Geoff Turner were resigning and that Simone Hetapore had resigned earlier in the year.

Moved – John Green. Seconded – David Wilson that Hilary Prior be elected Chair. Carried.

Moved – John Green. Seconded – Buzz Rathbone that Gerald Plested be elected Treasurer. Carried.

Moved – John Green. Seconded – Nick Miller that Helen Prior be elected Secretary. Carried.

## COMMITTEE ELECTION

It was noted that more people were standing for the Committee than the maximum number permitted by the Constitution. It was agreed that all nominations be accommodated by formally electing seven members and the balance to be co-opted.

Moved – John Green. Seconded – Buzz Rathbone that Caroline Hobbs, Jeanette Roberston, Keith Smith, Phill Thomass, David Wilson, Fraser Wilson, Jim Stanton, Jan Wilkins and Nick Miller be elected/co-opted. Carried.

## ANDY BRUERE'S REPORT FROM EBOP

Andy outlined in terms of lake's restoration, the highlights, the programme and the next steps.

He outlined the highlights as being the \$72m being received from the Government over the next 10 years the completion of the Ohau Division in Lake Rotoiti and, the Lake Okaro achievements by Zealite intervention for sediment capping.

He outlined a programme of continued implementation on the balance of the Lakes and noted that over half the \$72m was going to sewage reticulation. He outlined phosphorus "locking in" was to take place in two Rotorua streams, such to start after proper consultation had been completed. He outlined the Tikitere de-nitrification project and that a contract had just been let for a treatment plant. He outlined the engagement with land use owners at various places including farmers at lakes Okaro, Okareka and Rotoma – good discussions to get land management changes implemented. He spoke of the engagement with Dairy NZ who are leading land use changes particularly in the Rotorua area. No decisions yet, but good prospects.

As to the next steps he outlined the continued research and monitoring especially as to the diversion wall and its potential effects on

fish and bird life. He outlined what Professor Hamilton and his students are doing with ongoing modelling work. He noted land use changes are one thing, but locking in these changes is still a very big challenge. In summary continuation of the monitoring programme is to be undertaken with further action plans for the balance of the twelve lakes. Resource consents are needed for change, and the challenge is to get community buy in.

Lindsay Brighthouse spoke after Andy's report and said he was originally concerned about the Okere arm becoming contaminated, but was happy to hear of the ongoing testing programmes being undertaken by EBOP.

## NEW RATING PROPOSAL

Councillor Charles Sturt made a presentation and encouraged members to look at the material on the RDC website. He introduced his fellow committee members and then spoke to his distributed handout. He concluded by giving great credit to Andy Bruere amongst others for the progress on land use changes.

Peter Guerin then spoke and invited the LRCA to work with him in making submissions as to the new rating proposals. He advised that RDC were putting great focus on cutting procurement and internal costs to keep rates down. He stressed that he and the RDC wanted to hear submissions as whether the UAGC proposal is the right way to go and how the currently proposed allocations stack up.

He highlighted that the current proposal has the maximum UAGC charge (\$550) with new targeted rates for roading and tourism. There is to be re-instated the rural residential differential, but with the old 0.70 differential rising to 0.76. He noted under the previous proposal the rural residential differential had been totally abandoned.

He urged members to go to the RDC website and use the individual property calculator to see the effect of the new proposal, on individual's rates.

Geoff Palmer from the Community Board (Okareka member) noted that while Okareka rates appeared to reduce by 20 – 25%, it was somewhat illusionary because of upcoming sewage costs to be imposed on affected landowners.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

### BOATING

Lindsay Brighthouse spoke to boating issues and the general need for boaties to be safety conscious. He noted that every boat should at least have a cell phone and preferably VHF channel 64. He stressed that in emergencies boaties should call the Police and not the Coastguard. He noted that there is a very

impressive brand new big coast guard boat coming, to add to the two existing fast reaction boats. Lindsay also made a plea for boaties tying up to the Okere Falls wharf to move to the end and not occupy the middle. He also pleaded for bigger boats at a beach to go to one end of the beach. He urged members to join the coast guard at either \$30 per annum or at \$10 per annum as a supplementary member.

## CATFISH

Don Atkinson noted that he had recently found a catfish washed up on his beach. This is disturbing. He was urged by EBOP to report it to Fish and Game.

## TE AKAU POINT

Marcus Wilkins noted that a sign had been erected calling Te Akau Point Amass Point which was incorrect and sought rectification.

## JETTIES/BOATSHED

Nick Miller spoke updating his newsletter saga with the RDC on jetties and boatsheds, and reported that sadly still no progress was being made. Peter Guerin agreed to investigate.

## MOUREA WATER

Mary Stanton spoke at length on the issue of the Mourea water supply. She thanked the RDC for the 2008 survey but was disappointed as to there being no mention of costings in it. She noted that a lot of Iwi didn't reply because there were no costings. She noted that a local land trust and incorporation was seeking to subdivide land for housing local people but were inhibited through lack of water and sewage being installed. She stressed the need for healthy people and the need for water and sewage to assist that aim.

Phill Thomass moved a vote of thanks to retiring Committee Members and in particular thanked Brentleigh Bond and the Greens for their outstanding past service. Carried by acclaim.

*The meeting closed at 12.15pm.*



## BETWEEN WATERWAYS



# ROTORUA LAKES OPENING DAY

## FISHERY CREEL SURVEY

The opening of the 2009-10 trout fishing season saw a total of 684 anglers interviewed on Lakes Rotoiti (250), Tarawera (361) and Okataina (73). The total number of anglers encountered was down on the previous season opening, but given that October 1st fell on a Thursday with a less than flash weather forecast, the turnout was pleasing. Many people probably decided to work on opening day and wait until the weekend that was only a couple of days away.

### LAKE ROTOITI SURVEY STATISTICS:

Site	Number of Anglers	Fish measured
Gisborne Point Ramp	52	47
Otagamarae Ramp	50	55
Delta Ramp	54	75
Boat (Ika iti)	94	49
Total	250	226

Lake Rotoiti anglers looked to have a fairly good start to their year. The average size of the 2-year-old hatchery liberated fish was 509mm in length and 1.71kg in weight.

This is fairly similar to last years result at opening (515mm, 1.73kg). The growth rate in Rotoiti appears to have declined slightly over the past couple of years. This seems to reflect the absence of a heavy algae bloom within the lake demonstrating the productivity the algae brings to the food chain. While harmful to other lake users, no detrimental effects are seen within the trout population. Catch rate on Rotoiti was better than the past 2 season's openings (0.9 fish/angler as opposed to 0.6 in 2008 and 0.81 in 2007). Deeper trolling methods again appeared to produce better results than other methods.

The Ohau channel was the place to be on Opening Day with most anglers at the Rotorua end catching a fish. Thursday was touted as "the best opening ever" by long time Ohau Channel fishers. Smelt were present in the channel for about a month leading up to opening and the trout followed them in, stayed there and packed on condition.

On the opening morning, 98 fish were weighed into the local Ohau Anglers Club (OAK) competition at 9am. Fishing of course started at 5am. It was estimated that in-excess of 200 fish were pulled out of the Channel (Marama Resort end by the weir) on the opening day. Since then there have been a few fish that have exceeded 7kg (brown trout) and most of the fish being caught are in excellent condition.

We are hopeful that the good channel fishing will continue. Monitoring is again taking place on both the trout fishery (Aquatek consultants) and the smelt (NIWA).

Anglers should get out there while the fishing is going well. We are unsure how the smelting will go this season, but as long as they are there – the trout will be there too.

### 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 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.

**MATT OSBORNE**, FISH & GAME NZ. EASTERN REGION



**Green Acres Bay of Plenty  
is owned and operated  
by Max Hughes.**

**The Regional office is located  
at Hauparu Bay Lake Rotoiti  
so they are 'On the spot'**

Green Acres can help you with:

Lawnmowing  
Section Maintenance  
Tree and Hedge Trimming  
Commercial Cleaning  
Domestic Cleaning  
Carpet Cleaning

So - they 'Cover the Field'

Call Max - He would be delighted  
to come to your property,  
give you a free no obligation quote  
for the work you would like done  
and solve your problem.

All Green Acres Owner / Operators  
are fully Trained, Insured  
and security checked.

**Phone 0800 22 09 37**

## PUBLIC NOTICE: **PLANNING TO LIGHT A FIRE?**

With summer fast approaching and the holiday season not far away, the Department of Conservation is encouraging people to plan ahead if they are planning fires over the Christmas break.

During the dates of 21st December – 5th January the Department of Conservation office in Rotorua will be closed for issuing fire permits.

Gavin Kaukau Fire Ranger at the Rotorua office is keen to have people permitted in time "We are encouraging people wanting permits to get in early to avoid disappointment during the Christmas/New Year period"

"If you live near or on public conservation land you must have a permit if you are planning to light a fire. It allows us to educate the public about safe fires, track what is being lit and expedite procedures in the case of an emergency" explains Gavin.

Anything from a controlled burn to a fire for a Christmas hangi needs a permit.

"All permits are always subject to current conditions and are suspended when conditions are windy or the fire danger is high"

Permits are free and can be easily obtained by calling the Department of Conservation on (07) 349 7400.

For more information:

DOC Web site: [www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/threats-and-impacts/fire](http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/threats-and-impacts/fire)  
National Rural Fire Authority - [www.nrfa.org.nz](http://www.nrfa.org.nz)



Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

## LAKES ROTOMA AND ROTOEHU RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The District Council are to erect a gate across the Cheese Cut on Rotoma to restrict vehicle access used by public at present to launch boats along State Highway 30 – reducing the danger of weed infestation into the Lake. More trees and bollards will be planted along the roadside.

Regional Navigation Safety Bylaws have been accepted in principle so far. A Recycle Station is planned to be placed by Rotoma School – installation to be worked into the School curriculum for 2010.

The Joint Hearing Committee with regard to the application for a Geothermal Power

Station by the Rotoma No.1 Incorporation was heard in November. The Ratepayers are fortunate to have highly qualified engineers in their ranks who flew back from Australia to speak on their behalf. Judgement will be given in February 2010 when submitters will have further opportunity to speak on this important development.

There was a tragic drowning in Lake Rotoma over Labour Day weekend and the community would like to publically thank the Lakes Coastguard and the Police team for the great effort and work that took place and send condolences to the bereaved family.

Lake Rotoehu is still looking good and the upgraded launch sites and jetties are busy and satisfactory. Some algae has been recorded in the Otoutu Bay arm and top dressing, which has landed in the lake, has been obvious. Diquot spraying took place in November but this is less than satisfactory as the weed and nutrients sink to the lake bed and pollute the water. Excellent news is that a second Hornwort Weed Harvester has been purchased and the weed is being used in a Worm Farm Project

**CATHERINE BRANSON**

## ST MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH MOUREA

The restoration of St Mary's Church in Mourea is now virtually complete. A few minor interior details remain outstanding along with fencing and landscaping of the outside. Whilst an earlier completion date was hoped for, it is now likely that an official opening will be towards the end of January 2010. Many have remarked on its stand-out appearance which has been able to be achieved through the

very generous level of grants and donations received.

The Trust would like to thank everyone who has contributed in some way towards this momentous project and hope that it is admired for its heritage value as well as providing ongoing services for the community. Any further inquiries may be made to the Trust Secretary, Mary Stanton Ph 362 4690.



### **NEW STYLE NEWSLETTER - WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO PHILL THOMASS**

The LRCA committee hopes you will appreciate the new style Newsletter.

New committee members felt it was 'time for a change' in format prompted by the change in circumstances of our long time stalwart 'editor in chief' Phill Thomas.

Phill has been the compiler, assembler, editor, 'jack of all that is necessary to produce' our newsletter for a number of years.

Unfortunately business pressure and some health issues mean that this unpaid professional work from Phill can no longer continue.

So the production of this Newsletter has been out sourced to commercial organisations – at a cost.

Phill, thank you so much for your all your work and time in getting our newsletter out to our members, your passionate long time love of the lake has resulted in thousands of people being informed of what is going on with Lake Rotoiti.

We look forward to your continued valued comments.

Thank you,

**THE LRCA COMMITTEE**

# IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Fire, Police, Ambulance,  
Search & Rescue 111

Accident/Medical Centre 348-1000  
Previously had (0800-2200)  
this is incomplete number

Urgent Pharmacy 348-4385  
Previously had (0830-2130 24/7)  
This is disconnected

Rotorua Hospital 348-1199

St John Ambulance 0800-426-285

National Poisons Centre 0800-764-766

Rotorua Police Station 348-0099

Neighbourhood Support 349-9470

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 07-921-3375  
or 0800-368-267  
or mobile 021 273 7413

Coastguard 348-9022

Marine Radio 348-7429

Dept. of Conservation 349-7400

M.A.F. 0800-809-966

Fish & Game Eastern 357-5501

Fish & Game Licences 0800-542-362

Poaching 0800-762-244

Environment Bay of Plenty 0800-368-267

Rotorua District Council 348-4199

Rotorua Lakes Community Board 362-4700

Lakes Maintenance 362-4814

Pumps - Hi Flo Pumps 348-7516  
24 hours

Septic Tanks  
- Rotorua Waste Disposal 357-4534  
or 332-2791 (Mobile) 021-349236  
- Transpacific Technical Services 349-2542

Emery Store 362-7866

Happy Angler Store 362-4709

Okere Falls Store 362-4944

Rotoma General Store 362-0722

## REFUSE DISPOSAL

### WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD REFUSE COLLECTION

Only RDC Official Bags will be collected

Tie bags securely

Place at kerbside by 8 a.m. on collection day

**LAKE ROTOITI COLLECTION DAY  
IS EACH MONDAY**

**NO CHANGES TO COLLECTION DAYS  
ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS**

### REFUSE & RECYCLING OKERE TRANSFER STATION

Located at Okere Road (just south of SH 33)

Hours: 1 pm – 4.30 pm Wednesday

1 pm – 4.30 pm Saturday

10 am – 4.30 pm Sunday and last day  
of every public holiday period  
(except Christmas day)

Landfill Fees apply. Recycling Free of Charge

Domestic Waste only

No Trucks

No Hazardous Waste

For further information call RDC (07) 348-4199

For the months of December, January and  
February RDC have added the Saturday opening  
hours and extended the hours of the last day of  
every public holiday period (except Christmas  
Day) as a trial to test community use.

### ROTORUA LANDFILL

Located off Atimuri Highway SH 30

1.6 km from Waipa Junction

Hours: Monday – Saturday 7.30 am – 4.30 pm

Sunday and Public Holidays 9.30 am – 4.30 pm

CLOSED Christmas Day

Landfill Fees Apply

## MARINE RADIO – ROTORUA FREQUENCIES

Rotorua Marine Radio conducts three radio  
skeds daily on VHF channel 64, for weather  
broadcasts and trip reporting.

Scheduled times are:

0745-0800 hrs

1245-1300 hrs

1745-1800 hrs

Channel 64 is a calling frequency

Working frequencies are 06 and 08, please use  
these vessel to vessel. Visitors to the area are  
welcome to use these services.

Rotorua Lakes Coastguard use channel 86 for  
Search and Rescue. Please avoid this channel.

## LRCA CONTACT DETAILS

All written correspondence should be sent to:

The Secretary

LRCA

Postal Delivery Centre

Mourea 3074

Committee Contact Details:

Contact details for Committee members are  
available at [www.rototi.net](http://www.rototi.net)



## MEDICAL SERVICES

### ACCIDENT & URGENT MEDICAL CENTRE

Cnr Arawa & Tutaneikai Streets, Rotorua

Phone 07- 348 1000

Monday – Saturday 8 am– 10 pm.

Sunday 8 am–11.30 pm

### ROTORUA HOSPITAL

Accident & Emergency Department

Off Arawa Street

Pukeora Hill

Open 24 hours

(Call 111 for Ambulance Service)

### LAKESCARE (URGENT) PHARMACY

Cnr. Arawa & Tutaneikai Streets, Rotorua

Phone 07-248 4385

Sun – Sat 8.30 am–9.30 pm

### TE NGAE PHARMACY

Te Ngae Shopping Centre

Phone 07-345 9678

Monday– Friday 8.30 am–5.30 pm

Saturday 9am–1 pm

### DEFIBRILLATOR AT THE FIRE STATION IN OKERE ROAD.

### IN A MEDICAL EMERGENCY CALL 111

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

INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING?

We are always pleased to receive relevant items for inclusion in this newsletter.  
If you have an article or contribution please contact [lrc@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lrc@xtra.co.nz)