



Lake Rotoiti Community Association Incorporated



Ohau Channel, Lake Rotoiti.

Kia Ora from Lake Rotoiti

Welcome to the June 2007 winter newsletter, coming as it does after a long Indian Summer. After thinking an early winter was upon us in March we have had a mild time here around the lake for the last few months.

There is a lot happening this winter, we have local body elections, work is starting on the Diversion wall, and LRCA is continuing to advocate on a wide range of issues affecting Lake Rotoiti, from Rates to Land Use reform. Our newsletter has grown in size, reflecting all this activity. This issue includes copies of our submissions to RDC and EnvBOP Annual Plans.

This year at the local body elections we will also be electing candidates to our Community Board which comes into existence this year. Rotorua Council originally declined to create the board and this decision was appealed to the Local Government Commission who found in our favour. We see this new Community Board as allowing us all more access to RDC and an earlier input into the discussions that precede policies put out by the council. The various ratepayer and community organisations, including LRCA, will be putting forth a group of candidates for election drawn from the local lake communities under the banner "Combined Lakes Ratepayers". We strongly encourage you to register to vote and to exercise your right to elect candidates to not only the Community Board but also Council. Even if you are registered to vote elsewhere you are entitled to enrol as a 'Ratepayer Elector'. Details on how to do this are contained within the newsletter.

There is an update in the newsletter on the Sewerage Schemes being proposed around the lake, we get many questions on what is happening with these schemes, so it is good to have a timetable and information available. Okawa Bay is already showing encouraging signs of improvement with its scheme up and running.

The start of work on the Diversion wall has been long anticipated, and we look forward to the huge improvement expected in the reduction of nutrients entering Lake Rotoiti from Rotorua. We are fortunate that there is an engineering solution that can make such a difference to the lake, but we must remember that there are other sources of nutrients entering Rotoiti, and the Diversion wall does nothing to address the problems facing Lake Rotorua. Land Use change has been identified as playing a major part in reducing nutrient inflows into the lakes, and we must ensure that our local body representatives address the complex issues surrounding land use change. Without constant pressure from the community the temptation for councillors will be to defer hard decisions that need to be made.

With the Diversion wall under construction boaties will also need to remember that the boat ramp will not be usable.

- Phill Thomass

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT June 2007

The nights are drawing in fast as we face another winter season. It has been a relief to most Residents and Visitors that we have seen the summer months come and go without a major algal bloom on the Lake. Rotoiti has enjoyed a busy summer, especially Easter, which saw many once regular Visitors return to the Lake for the wonderful recreational pursuits it accommodates.

It amuses me that when questioned, why these regular visitors have been absent for a number of years?, the reply is, "because of the bad publicity". **REALLY!** I thought it might have had something to do with the terrible water quality and the shocking algal blooms on the Lake! Let's get real everyone Anything negative that has happened regarding decline in recreational use and property values on Lake Rotoiti is a direct result of the poor water quality and algal blooms. The "bad" publicity in my mind has been a good thing, because it has been a catalyst for the "action" we are seeing on the Lakes right now. Before the "bad publicity" the Lake suffered a continual decline since the early 1980's without one action being taken to stop it! New Zealand has been projecting a clean green façade for years and the time has come to face a few home truths.

It was, though, a great thing not to have a Health Warning on the Lake this year, albeit not thanks to anything other than our cool start to summer..... May it be a sign of many summers to come?

However I do believe we can confidently suggest that the lack of an algal bloom in Okawa Bay this year **could** be a result of the recent sewerage scheme, that has essentially removed the major source of nutrients in that small bay. Residents I know have swum there nearly every day this summer. Something they have not been able to do for years..... cool summer or not!

We should see the start of the Ohau Channel Diversion later this month, which I believe will have the same effect on the main Lake as the sewerage scheme in Okawa Bay. The Diversion will effectively reduce the nutrient inflow into Lake Rotoiti by about 75%, which is the same as reducing the nutrient load to the Lake by other methods i.e. sewerage reticulation or land use change, but of course the effect is instant!

While we applaud the Regional Council's initiative and efforts on this project they must start addressing the solutions that are absolutely necessary in the long term to reduce the nutrient inflows in to Lake Rotorua. We have heard much in the press recently about the impacts on New Zealand's water bodies of intensified farming activities on the land. The QECD have stated that the situation has become so serious that New Zealand must adopt a more regulatory approach and make environmental policies that will ensure that polluter pays and sustainable outcomes are incentivised. The time has come where we must make a choice about whether we want clean water or not, because it is becoming increasingly obvious to me that we cannot facilitate both intensified land activities and retain good water quality.

Environment Bay of Plenty seems reluctant to enforce the requirements of the Resource Management Act, and make the rules required to reduce the nutrient loads to the Lakes. With pressure on the Government with the commitments of the Kyoto Protocol I believe the initiative will need to come from Central Government to set National Environmental

policies, just as they have in other countries where voluntary constraints have not achieved the desired outcomes.

This year we have been actively involved in the preparation of an "Action Plan" for Lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti. This process as we initially understood it had been about guiding a programme of action to achieve better water quality in both Lakes. We are bitterly disappointed that despite numerous meetings and discussions, not to mention a huge amount of Ratepayer financial resource we have not had 1 kg nutrient reduction commitment from the farming community to this goal. It has been three years since the start of the Action Plan process and not one action on the land has been agreed, yet farming and intensification of land is the main threat to the future sustainability of the Lakes. Don't get me wrong, I am not anti farmers, but I am anti farming practices that are harming our Lakes. We will be making strong submissions to the Rotorua Rotoiti Draft Action Plan and to the Annual Plan, urging ENVBOP to provide the regulatory framework required to reduce the effects of land use on the Lakes.

This Annual Plan ENVBOP is continuing with a targeted rate on properties in the Rotorua District to fund 56% of the Rotorua Lakes Protection and Restoration operation expenditure. The remaining 44% will be funded from general rates and investment income. The apportionment of cost to the Rotorua District is currently under review, that is, how the 56% will be split by those who pay rates in Rotorua. We strongly support the concept of "polluter pays" and believe the apportionment of the Lakes Restoration Rate should be directly related to the amount of pollution contributed. At present the urban community pays the lion's share of the rate and we want this changed. We believe the urban community is paying enough by funding their own sewerage schemes, which deals with our "share" of lake pollution.

The Rotorua District Council is STILL reviewing their rating policy, after not much progress since the start of the review in the 2006-2016 Ten Year Plan. Council is still deliberating over whether it will change to a Capital Value based system and whether it will continue with the rural differential of 70%. Council has simply run out of time and have resolved to delay these decisions until the 2008-9 financial year. This Association has submitted for years the importance of retaining the rural differential and will continue to do so. Without the differential, whether it is a Land or a Capital based rating system, Lake Ratepayers would endure a less than fair or equitable increase in general rates. We will continue to ask Council to give us a proposal we can assess and respond to ensure we all get a realistic and affordable rating regime.

We have continued our regular quarterly meetings with Rotorua District Council and Steve Chadwick MP for Rotorua which we feel keeps issues most important to our Ratepayers alive at least. We are very disappointed however that RDC have decided to reject the proposal put by RDC Staff to fund the Rotorua Lakes Community Board from general rates. The Local Government Act provides for the expenses of a Community Board, and states that "the expenses of the Board SHOULD be paid by the territorial authority responsible for it". It also states that "Community Boards should not be seen as independent of, separated from or additional to the district wide representation provided

by Council". We see Council's decision as an act of bad faith but hope with the establishment of the Board after the Local Elections later this year, we can move forward in a positive and cooperative way.

By now you should have all received your Lake Structure Information pack from RDC to obtain Resource Consent in retrospect for your Lake Structure. ENVBOP and RDC have obtained the necessary approvals for these structures for a term of 10 years. In that time new policies will be developed to manage the structures on the Lakes. Concerns about the effects of the new policies have been raised by the Community and we are delighted that ENVBOP have agreed to work with the Community and other interested parties to ensure the policies developed in the future meet with the desires of the "whole" community AND address the needs of the Lakes in terms of existing lake structures and their impacts on the lake environs.

We are still waiting for financial commitment from Government under the Ministry of Health Subsidy for the funding of the Lakeside Community Sewerage Schemes. The amount of money available from the Ministry of Health has not been enough to fund all the applications for financial assistance it received. The Government is in the process of reviewing the amount of money available, which we need if our schemes are to continue! Fingers crossed!

The first meeting of the Lakes Recreation Forum in April was well attended by Lake Ratepayer groups and Agencies such as RDC, DOC, Fish and Game and the Harbour Master from ENVBOP. The forum will have an input into guiding lake recreational management in the future in the form of the Rotorua Lake Recreational Strategy. The Strategy while having no rules as such will help guide decisions about lake structures, navigation aids, information signs and boating activities on the Lakes. We think it is important that our Ratepayers and Residents have an opportunity to voice their opinions to ensure the issues raised by the Community are addressed by the Agencies concerned.

We also met with the Harbour Master recently to discuss the concerns Residents had raised at our last AGM. The meeting was well attended by representatives from all the Lakes and Residents from Gisborne Point, Okawa Bay and Okere Falls. It was an open and frank meeting which aired concerns about the Harbour Master's role and activities on the Lakes. As a result of that meeting I am confident we can look forward to a better relationship with the Harbour Master and his department.

The Transfer Station for the Eastern end of the Lake looks certain to be a reality. A site on Curtis Road has been successfully negotiated with the Landowners. The application has been publicly notified and is at present undergoing the submission process. Let's hope all goes well- it has been a long and difficult process acquiring a land disposal site and obtaining stakeholder consent.

We welcome the appointment of Rotorua Lakes Coordinator Andy Bruere. We have met with Andy and feel confident he can successfully manage the issues of land use and lake water quality. He is a great communicator and we are confident he will encourage information sharing between the many stakeholders in what we consider the most important issue in the Rotorua District today.

Members of the Committee were thrilled to be invited to the opening of the new Energy Events Centre in March. A building of much controversy I know, but without doubt a

great asset to the City. As a participant in the recent Xterra event and its after-event prize giving at the Events Centre, I can confidently say that it will be a great draw card to many National and International events.

I also attended the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between The Crown, Rotorua District Council, Environment Bay of Plenty and Te Arawa Maori Trust Board on the 18th of April. ABOUT TIME!- A significant step in our Lakes history as it signifies an acknowledgement and commitment from the Government to the restoration of the Rotorua Lakes.

At about the same time as you receive this Newsletter, I hope you are hearing the sounds of the first piles being driven into the Lake to hold the sheet piles that will make the Ohau Channel Diversion wall. It is a sight I long to see!

*Sally Brock
Chair.*

Community Boards – The Way Forward

IF YOU DON'T ENROL, YOU CAN'T VOTE

On 8 November last year the Local Government Commission delivered a decision that a Community Board be elected at the next local body elections (13 October 2007) to represent the Rotorua Lakes Community area.

4 members of the Community Board will be elected and 2 members will be appointed by the RDC, (one from the North Ward and one from the East Ward). The Rotorua Combined Lakes Ratepayers Association Inc is to endorse 4 candidates to represent the lakes by running an election campaign under a **Combined Lake Ratepayers "ticket"**. Each of the 4 candidates will have a strong affinity to the Rotorua Lakes and will bring their considerable background and experience in ratepayer/lakes issues to both the Community Board, and through to the RDC.

LRCA strongly urges residents and ratepayers to give their support to these candidates.

We look forward to the new Community Board working with the RDC in a spirit of trust, respect, understanding and goodwill to promote good local governance not just for the greater Rotorua District but especially for our lakes area.

Remember:

- If you are not enrolled you can't vote.
- If you can't vote, the Combined Lakes Ratepayers ticket will stand less chance of being elected.
- If the wrong people get elected through lakes people not enrolling, our lakes will not be best represented.
- ENROL NOW – it's not difficult
- Read the article on enrolment elsewhere in this newsletter as to how you can enrol.

We urge all of you who are residents and ratepayers in the Rotorua Lakes Community area to enrol and thus be able to vote.

Have your say at the 2007 local body elections . . .

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

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

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

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

Fortunately, all is not lost.

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

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

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

How Do I Enrol?

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

Lake Rotoiti Care Group Report

The Care Group has had a busy time over the late Summer/Autumn, predominantly with weed control and eradication on our established projects. Our requests for help on these weed control projects were rewarded with many helpful locals, giving up their own time to lend a hand. It just goes to show that people who choose to live in our wonderful environment really do care and are willing to give up their free time to help make where we live more beautiful.

The Care Group has had 2 successful working bees for weed control over the summer at the Kaituna Lake Edge opposite the Okere Falls Store from the floodgates to opposite Fred Whatas house. We have also had a local Contractor, employed by Environment Bay of Plenty tackle the tougher weeds and willows with either poison or spray.

There has been quite a lot of exotic vegetation and weed clearance in this area over the summer in preparation for some more native planting over winter.

The area on the lakeside edge of the road, opposite Whangamarino School at the 70km entrance to Okere Falls (Rotorua end) has had the exotic trees, willows, blackberry and gorse removed and has already had an initial weed spray. We hope to plant this area with native plants over this winter if adequate weed control is attained. Over 2500 plants are estimated to be planted in these areas so keep a watchful eye on the road sides for the working bee signs! Your help will definitely be welcomed! Keep an eye on the Okere Falls Store notice board as well for the dates and times of future working bees. We promise a good coffee for your efforts! So.....we thank the Okere Falls Store for their support of the working bees. The coffee and cake shared with your neighbours after the work is done make it all worthwhile. Not to mention the pride you feel as the fruits of your efforts start to grow!

The Okawa Bay plantings are flourishing and have now all but covered a bank that was once infested with blackberry and gorse. The whole Community has benefited from the efforts of the Okawa Bay Care Group, and members of the Community, who have transformed an area once infested by noxious weeds but now flourishing with healthy plants, thanks to the efforts of a few local heroes!

Whangamoa Point has had a huge effort in weed control this season and will probably require one more year of weed control before planting in 2008. The grass is now dominating this lovely lake side area which makes it hard to imagine that only a couple of years ago you could not access the beach at all because of huge stands of gorse. We acknowledge the assistance from the Classic and Wooden Boat Association at the working bees at this site.

The Te Akau Road plants are now well established and it is envisaged that only small tidy ups and weed control will be required in this area to keep it looking good.

It has been great to have a bloom free Lake this summer, which has resulted in a lot more people using the Lake and its beaches. Now that the busy summer months are over us the Care Group can continue its good work by having a few beach cleanups over autumn months.

Te Arero Bay is in the early stages of having a major environmental programme. The Landowners and Environment Bay of Plenty are working together to facilitate a major improvement in stream and lake protection.



Our Lake and it's environs are unique and every one who chooses to live here, whether it be on a full or part time basis has a part to play in maintaining and improving the place that we live. Don't leave it to other people to do what you could do your self. It really doesn't take a lot of effort to make a difference.

Every project, big or small, deserves merit. If there are projects in the Lake Rotoiti environs that members of the Community would like to be involved in or start, contact the Lake Rotoiti Care Group 3624764. We can assist you in the initial planning of the project and help you to get the financial and physical assistance required to get the project done.

The work that the Group undertakes would not be possible with out the huge amount of support given to us by Environment Bay of Plenty and the Rotorua District Council.

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

The Care Group has a very healthy list of people who are willing to help on the numerous projects around the Lake. All those who have worked on any of our projects can feel proud that they have made a difference to where we live on a full or part time basis.

The efforts of the Lake Rotoiti Care Group were recognised at the recent "Keep Rotorua Beautiful Awards" where we received the Outstanding Contribution to Keep Rotorua Beautiful (Community) Award.

We acknowledge and thank the Rotorua District Council for its acknowledgment of the Groups work.

The First Rotorua Lakes Recreation Forum

A meeting was held on 11 April 2007. There was a good turnout of participants representing most of the lake user groups and regulatory authorities. Some key items that came up at the meeting which will be of interest are:-

- Collaborative signage at reserves and boat launching facilities throughout the district is to be pursued by forming a steering committee. Each specific community group will be contacted before any decisions about specific signage in the area is finalised. However the main thrust of this work is reduce the proliferation of signs around public boat ramps and jetties by giving one information kiosk at each of these locations and providing opportunity within that kiosk for the community to put other specific notices in place.
- There was some discussion about why we no longer have honorary wardens and that the use of volunteers could enhance our navigation and safety team. To undertake navigation and safety issues working with the old honorary warden system is not feasible, however Environment Bay of Plenty have agreed to look at ways that could work in with lakeside communities using their support to manage aspects of education and awareness on a local level within each area. This will be reported back on at the next meeting.

The Rotorua Lakes Recreation Forum will now meet twice a year

Communicating with You: The Need for Email Addresses

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

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

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

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

If an email address is not shown on this invoice, we don't have it and would ask that you advise us of this urgently.

You can write it on the form and return it to us with your subscription, or you can email it directly to us at grahamb@clear.net.nz (Please remember to quote your membership number).

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

Regards to you and many thanks for your continued support.

LRCA



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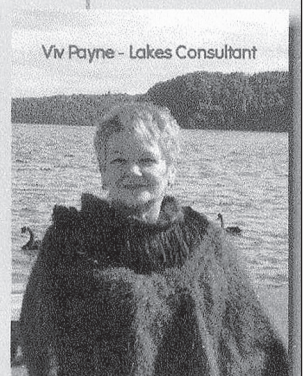
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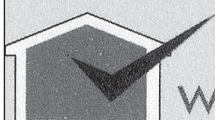
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West Rotoiti Volunteer Fire Unit

The local fire unit at the end of Okere Road has seen quite some activity over the summer and since I wrote the last article in the December newsletter. From December through to the end of March we had 16 call-outs, nearly one per week. Even though a good number of those were false alarms we were also called to a number of vehicle accidents as well as jetty and boat fires that were a little bit more serious in nature.

The unit faced some serious staff problems during the summer since all long serving volunteers resigned over a period of several months due to age or because they were leaving the area. We had some new crew members join the unit in February and they're currently completing their basic induction training. However, we are still seeking some more interested people (male and female) who live in the Okere Falls and Otaramarae areas and who would like to be part in the local fire unit. Training is at the fire station every second and forth Tuesday of the month.

The West Rotoiti Volunteer Fire Unit is primarily a Rural Fire Unit, responsible for vegetation fires, but due to the 20 - 30 minutes driving distance from the Rotorua Fire Station we are called as a first response to all incidents in the local area requiring Fire or Rescue Services support. Our close presence can make a big difference in case of house fires or accidents and I believe that the Fire Unit needs volunteer community support in order to give community support. *Andi Uhl*

If you are interested in joining, or just want to find out more about the level of training and time commitment required in being a Volunteer Rural Fire Fighter please call our Training Officer Aaron Martin (362 4752) or Andi Uhl (362 4264).

Community Constable's Comment

Kia ora rā e hoa mā

I would like to take this time to introduce myself to you all. My name is Constable Wayne HARPER and I have recently taken over as the Te Ngae Community Constable from Constable Mark WIRIHANA, who has moved onto other things in the police.

Before coming to Te Ngae, I was based as the Community Constable in the Western Heights area of Rotorua where I spent my time working with locals to further develop and implement various crime reduction initiatives in their community. These implementations included such strategies as the implementation of Community patrols, anti graffiti squads, the formation of a community association, obtaining funding and placing a social worker into some of the local schools, and encouraging people to take advantage of belonging to a neighborhood support group.

Community Safety and Crime Prevention are key issues for any Community Constable and it is for those reasons that I am delighted to contribute to this newsletter. As a local resident, I have a vested interest in the overall well being of our community.

I have found that the most effective tools available in combating crime is establishing relationships with your neighbours. I realise that many residents may know one or two nearby neighbours already, but by formally establishing a Neighbourhood Support (NS) group you can receive up-to-date information on crime trends and signage with free advice and the tools to reduce crime within your community.

Many of you may be unaware that areas with NS groups have substantially lower rates of crime than those without. A great deal of home security can be gained for a minimal amount of effort. For those who want more information please contact Mr Barrie Fenton, the Neighbourhood Support Coordinator at the Rotorua Police Station. (3480099)

Another strategy for improving Community Safety is the use of Community Patrols. These volunteer patrol groups are able to work closely with the Police, utilizing local knowledge and up-to-date Police intelligence, to patrol their neighbourhood. They are the "eyes and ears" for local Police and have an important role in reducing crime at a local and national level.

I would like to establish a Community Patrol for the Rotoiti Lakes area. This community based patrol group will need local volunteers who are prepared to take an active role in Community Safety. Any person interested in being a part of this initiative will need to leave their contact details at the Te Ngae Police Station.

Which now brings us to the current situation in the Rotoiti Area.

There have been a number of reported occurrences where someone is tampering with mail left in the mail boxes during the day.

These people are highly mobile and are looking for anything valuable in your mail.

Please take precautions, lock your mail box, report any vehicles that are hanging around your area, take down the number plates, do not post or receive cash / cheques through the mail, clear your mail box early, if you are going away ask your neighbour to clear it for you, or even consider asking the post office to hold your mail.

Please continue to be vigilant around your home. Ensure you lock your houses, do not leave valuables in open sight in vehicles and report suspicious people or cars to the Police.

Remember Crime is a Community problem and with your help we can and will beat it.

*Constable Wayne HARPER
Community Constable Te Ngae*

Lake Rotoiti Charitable Trust

At its Annual General Meeting held on the 7th January this year, and after nearly 50 years of leasing and managing the hot pools on Lake Rotoiti, the members of the Manupirua Springs Inc. resolved to wind their society up and to transfer all surplus funds to the newly incorporated Lake Rotoiti Charitable Trust.

The Lake Rotoiti Charitable Trust was created for the purpose by a Deed of Trust dated 16th October 2006 and is incorporated under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957.

The purposes and aims of the Trust are contained in the Deed of Trust and include:

- To promote recreational and community-based activities based in and around Lake Rotoiti for the residents of Lake Rotoiti and the general public;
- To foster a community spirit within the Lake Rotoiti area and its surrounds; and
- To encourage the preservation of the special character of Lake Rotoiti as a natural environment and historically significant area of New Zealand.

As income from donations, subsidies, grants, gifts, legacies, bequests, koha and investments permits, the Trust will make funds available for charitable projects in and around Lake Rotoiti and elsewhere. These projects may include (but are not limited to) financial assistance for the establishment and maintenance of picnic areas, eco-toilets, picnic tables, BBQ's, walking tracks, environmental projects etc. for the benefit of all.

The Trust is run by a Board of Trustees appointed by the "Lake Rotoiti Scenic Reserve Board", the "Lake Rotoiti Community Association Inc.", the "The Bay of Plenty Trailer Yacht Squadron Inc.", and the "Lake Rotoiti Classic & Wooden Boat Association Inc." Each Trustee is appointed for a term not exceeding 4 years and no Trustee can serve more than 2 terms continuously.

The present Trustees are:

Hugh Marston (Chair); Greta Hulme (Secretary); Brentleigh Bond (Treasurer); Sally Brock; Bruce Holt; Ross Mabey; Paul Nichols; Robin Sinclair; Ian Summersby.

It is expected that the Trust will shortly publicise its activities and provide details of making donations to the Trust and providing funding for charitable projects.

Further information and the Deed of Trust may be viewed at: www.societies.govt.nz

steve howard

lakeside properties



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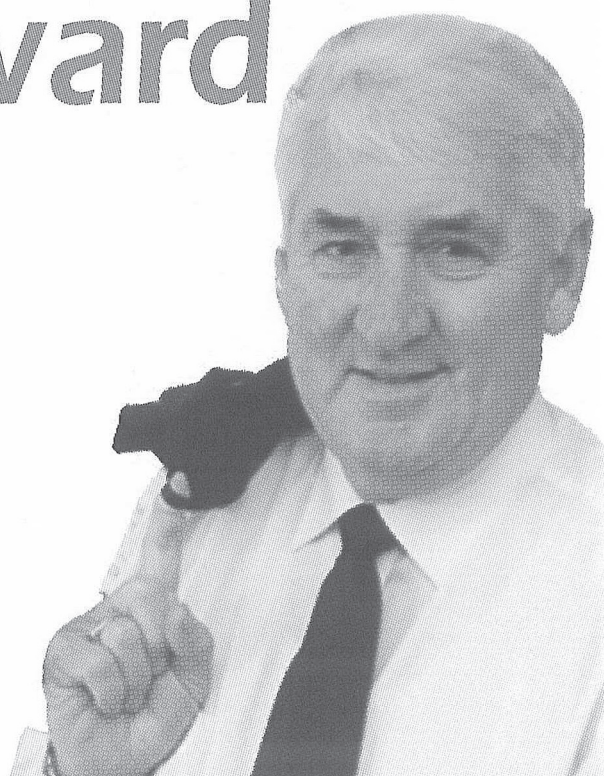
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Rotorua Lakes Aquatic Pest Management Plan

Our pest plant and pest animal sections are advancing the actions of the aquatic pest management plan, approved by Council in June 2006. Environment Bay of Plenty is the lead agency for aquatic pest management, working collaboratively with DOC, Fish and Game, Rotorua District Council, Te Arawa Lakes Trust, LINZ and their service provider Landward Management.

The Management Plan is a brief, working document which will be regularly reviewed by the collaborative group. It describes the roles of the various agencies and lists actions such as surveillance, education and awareness, incursion pathways and response, annual control programme and review.

The management plan has been approved by Environment Bay of Plenty and partner agencies, and presented to groups such as the Lakes Water Quality Society.

Summer Awareness Programme Including Didymo

Environment Bay of Plenty employed 2 students and DOC 1 over the recent summer season. The students completed the holiday awareness programme, visiting boat ramps and distributing awareness material. For the first time, this included didymo prevention / awareness, assisted by funding from Biosecurity NZ. Student findings included: Of the 62 anglers interviewed at popular trout fishing locations over the holiday period – 60% were visitors to the region; a third of these were from overseas (Canada, USA or Australia); regular sports fishers had a very good knowledge of didymo and decontamination procedure; two anglers visiting from the South Island had seen the effects of didymo and sourced their fishing gear from the North Island. Amateur sports fishers i.e. those who fish occasionally as a holiday past-time, had a poor knowledge of didymo. Awareness programmes need to target this group of anglers. The survey's findings have been provided to Biosecurity NZ.

Didymo currently infests 30 rivers and 2 lakes in the South Island. It has not been detected in the North Island. As a precaution, Environment Bay of Plenty, working with Fish and Game, is developing a regional incursion response plan.

Environment Bay of Plenty pest plant staff attended 10 aquatic events, speaking to participants about best practice procedure to prevent incursions, and decontaminating kayaks before events such as the Motu Challenge or the Wild Moa.

Student Fiona Maguire completed a comprehensive report from the summer programme. This information will be used to develop future awareness programmes.

Lake Rotoehu Hornwort Harvesting And Containment

This is once again scheduled to proceed, as soon as the harvester is available. Environment Bay of Plenty is having some extra large awareness / clean your boat signs made and will be erecting them around Lake Rotoehu's entry and exit routes. Staff are still progressing a trial weed cordon project. The cordons may contain weed fragments or prevent weed from massing at the ramp, and so reduce the risk of weed transfer.

Annual Surveillance Programme

Environment Bay of Plenty staff are currently diving within the lakes to detect new incursions and monitor known infestations. Results will be reported to all groups when the survey is completed.

Lake Structures

In response to discussions with the Rotorua lakes community, Environment Bay of Plenty decided in late 2006 to initiate a project to review the policies and rules for structures in lakes – called the "Lakes Structures Project". The concern was that the rules and policies were not very specific, so it was unclear to everyone about what areas structures were acceptable in, and where they weren't acceptable.

There are many different agencies that have some type of interest in the Rotorua lakes and structures including:

- Rotorua District Council – owns reserves next to lakes and issues building consents. (Note: they issue resource consents for the parts of structures on dry land)
- Department of Conservation – owns reserves next to lakes and parts of some lakes
- LINZ (Land Information New Zealand) – administers (on behalf of the Crown) ownership of the space occupied by water and air above each of the lakebeds
- Te Arawa Lakes Trust – owns the lake beds

Environment Bay of Plenty is responsible for issuing resource consents for structures in lakes.

Before we went and talked with the community about the Lakes Structures Project, we wanted to have discussions with these agencies to ensure that we each understand our position, and how we might best work together. We've had a number of the discussions already, but have more to go. Once we've completed these discussions, then we'll be ready to discuss the project with the community.

We appreciate that a lot of people will have strong interests in how the policies and rules about lakes structures will be developed, and want to make sure that everyone has an opportunity to be involved.

If you've got any questions about the Lakes Structures Project and/or want to be included on the mailing list, please contact Meredith Wilson at Environment Bay of Plenty on 0800 368 267 or email meredith.wilson@envbop.govt.nz



Whangamoa Drive Rubbish Enclosure

It's great to see the Community and Rotorua District Council working together for the improvement of our Environment. A few dedicated Locals who were fed up by rubbish bags being strewn for miles after roaming cats and dogs have had a go at inappropriately dropped rubbish bags decided enough is enough. They approached Roselyn Sievers at RDC and made a proposal- RDC pay for it and the Community would erect it- A Rubbish Bag enclosure!

Well done to all- That's the initiative we like to see- CONGRATULATIONS!



Dumped Rubbish

Two days after the Monday rubbish collection from Okere Falls, 7 rubbish bags appeared at the kerb from a bach that had been let out over the Easter holidays. To prevent a mess like this one a neighbour was forced to pile them into the car and store them for 5 days until the next collection day.

Surely 7 rubbish bags didn't accumulate over 2 days?

If you are a bach owner and let your bach PLEASE make sure your tenants are aware of rubbish collection days, and make them aware of the Transfer opening times.

And if you miss both PLEASE take your rubbish home. Don't leave a mess like this for your neighbours and friends to pick up.



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Ohau Diversion Wall

Most people have already heard that a 10.3 million dollar contract has been let to HEB-Smithbridge Contractors for construction of the Ohau diversion wall. Construction will commence in early June 2007 and will take about a year to complete. The wall is a sheet pile construction with king piles, which are driven down into the bed of the lake and fixed securely into position.

Unfortunately during construction works access to the lake at the state highway boat ramp will be closed due to Health and Safety considerations. It should also be noted that the construction works within the lake will have health and safety issues and it would be appreciated if boaties observing the works comply with any markings and signs or contractor instructions to keep away from the construction area. It is expected though that you will get a reasonable view of the construction activities while boating on the lake.



To The Lake Rotoiti Community Association Inc.

Ohau Channel Wall Blessing

The group collected for the Ohau Wall Blessing not only shared a joint feeling of relief that the next phase of the Rotorua Lakes project was under way, but shared stories of the history of Lake Rotoiti and the need to cleanup this iconic lake.

“When the koura return to the food basket of Ngati Pikiao we will know we have succeeded.”

The wall about to be constructed by Smith bridge Consultant Engineers (a Tauranga firm) will take up to one year to build and some inconvenience is certain to occur for locals and boat users. We all need time to bear with the project in order to have yet another **concrete** reality happen.

This was truly a partnership approach between the District Council, EBOP and the Te Arawa Lakes Trust, Ratepayer Groups and the Lakes Water Quality Society.

The Lakes “Memorandum Of Understanding” signed last month by all parties will be the framework for our way forward on all major capital works that contributes to improvements of the water quality.

Steve Chadwick MP

Ohau Diversion Wall Blessing



At 10 a.m. Saturday 5th May, on a perfect Lake Rotoiti autumn day, about 50 people gathered at the Delta boat ramp site where construction of the Ohau Diversion will occur. This is an EBOP, RDC and Te Arawa Lakes Trust joint project. Representatives from many interested parties attended the blessing for the start of a project which is expected to make a huge difference to the health and water quality of Lake Rotoiti.

Toby Curtis, the new Te Arawa Lakes Trust Board Chairman, welcomed everyone to the gathering. Then the Venerable Joe Huta, continued with a prayer and led a small group including Steve Chadwick, our local member of parliament, Mary Stanton, resident of Mourea who has campaigned tirelessly for local issues, and Peter Dine, the District Engineer, out to the delta in the Lake Patrol boat to bless the Delta project. On return the ceremony continued with speeches from the other Stakeholders involved. John Cronin, Chairman of EBOP said this was an historic day for Rotoiti. He congratulated Paul Dell on his hard work in leading the project and his achievement in getting the project started. Deputy Mayor, Trevor Maxwell, represented RDC in conveying their best wishes for the Diversion wall.



Steve Chadwick paid tribute to Mary Stanton, Nick and Elizabeth Miller, who many years ago were alone in their outspoken views about the problems that Lake Rotoiti and our other lakes were experiencing. She said that they were at the forefront of the huge initiatives that are at last becoming reality for the health of the Rotorua Lakes. Firstly the sewerage scheme for Mourea and Okawa and now the Ohau Diversion Wall.

Alan Bell, of Smithbridge Ltd, the company responsible for the project, said that construction would be starting in early July and should be completed within a year. He hoped that there would not be too much disruption to the community in the process. The ceremony finished with morning tea at Te Takinga Marae, Mourea, and great enthusiasm by all present for the project and future good health of Lake Rotoiti.

Sewerage Scheme Updates

Okere Falls/Otaramarae/Whangamarino

The results of community feedback of the public information document dated November 2006, about whether residents of Okere Falls/Otaramarae and Whangamarino want to be serviced by a low pressure grinder pump system (LPGP) showed an overwhelming response of 86% in support of the system. The only disappointing aspect was the overall response rate to the questionnaire, with only 16% of residents caring about what happens in their community. Please ensure that you take time to respond to the council's questionnaires as these will determine what type of sewerage scheme you get and ultimately, how much you pay for your sewerage reticulation network.

Questions at the meeting of the 28 November 2006 at the Pikiaro Rugby League Clubrooms centred around costs of the sewerage scheme, running costs of the pressure units, power supply, gravity/pressure sewer combination, the alarm, timing of the scheme and noise.

- The costs of the proposed sewerage scheme have not been advanced any further, due to Council presently working on the Hinemoa Point Sewerage Scheme and finalisation of the Rotokawa/Brunswick Scheme. Rotorua District Council is investigating alternative technology in LPGP to service these areas. Capital costs are reduced considerably with LPGP.
- The electricity costs associated with running of the pressure unit is approximately \$20 per year. Maintenance costs for the unit will be covered in your annual sewerage charge in the rates.
- Unison and Council have been in discussion over continuation of power supply. Trees appear to be the main cause of disruption of supply. The LPGP system however, provides a days use of storage.
- You cannot combine a gravity system with a pressure sewer system without having to install a complete gravity network at the higher costs.
- The alarm associated with the pressure unit will not go off if no one is present at the house. If the alarm does go off, ring the Council to get the system sorted.
- Due to a reorganisation of the lakeside community sewerage schemes, the proposed date for construction of the Okere Falls/Otaramarae/Whangamarino Sewerage Scheme is now February 2008 to February 2009. The programme is still subject to funding availability.
- The pump unit when operating produces a noise 5dba above background levels. Residents should not be able to hear the unit running beyond five metres.

The District Council is still continuing to take water samples around the north eastern corner of Lake Rotoiti as part of the health risk assessment used for sewerage subsidy applications to the Ministry of Health. Monitoring for Faecal coliforms and E.Coli, since October 2005 show an average Faecal coliform count of 66 cfu/100ml and E.Coli count of 42cfu/100ml. These counts are well below the action limit in the bathing guidelines, but indicate contamination from septic tanks and stormwater runoff.

Gisborne Point/Hinehopu and Rotoma

The District Council has finally secured access to a number of sites that were identified as possible sites for a wastewater treatment plant and disposal facility. The results of the preliminary investigation should be available to Council in mid 2007.

HarbourMasters Report

Andrew Lang is currently on leave so EnvBOP have kindly supplied the following information from the recent Lakes Recreation Forum meeting

Navigation and Safety Issues

At the recent Lakes Recreation Forum meeting the Harbourmaster outlined the following matters from past seasons. Issues with jet skis seem to be increasing and resulting in complaints to Environment Bay of Plenty. It appears that second-hand jet skis are becoming available at lower prices and younger people are able to get hold of these more readily.

A number of promotional activities are being undertaken throughout the season particularly information to promote weed and pest fish concerns as well as safety information. Boat packs have been circulated which consist of Lake Guides (on one side is a map of the district's lakes the other is full of safety & general information) a Boat Safety DVD and booklet for the boat, a brief outline of the bylaws, floating key rings with stop the spread of aquatic pest, didymo handout, and prop flags with stop the spread.) Over the season fifteen hundred lake guides have been distributed

The Harbourmaster reports that fifteen complaints were received for the season.

Water quality and its impact on algal blooms influence changes to recreational pressure on various lakes. Lake Tarawera is now the busiest of all lakes with significant pressure now coming on Lake Rotoma and Lake Okareka.

At the Lakes Recreation Forum meeting it was agreed to establish communication with representatives of the Okawa Bay community to address future navigation and safety rules within Okawa Bay. Currently there is a ski box within Okawa Bay which is not gazetted and it is important that this matter is resolved as soon as possible so that all parties involved have appropriate rules to work to.

Interested in Contributing?

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

New proposed timelines for Gisborne Point/Hinehopu will see community consultation begin late 2008 with construction expected to start 2010. For Rotoma, community consultation will start late 2010 with construction expected to start 2011.

Lake water quality sampling as part of the health risk assessment shows elevated Faecal coliform and E.Coli counts for Gisborne Point/Rotoiti when compared to that recorded for Okere Falls/Otaramarae and Whangamarino. Water quality monitoring since January 2007 has an average faecal coliform count of 286cfu/100ml and an average E.Coli count of 197cfu/100ml. These counts are below the bathing guidelines, but indicate a greater presence of septic tank contamination. No sampling is presently being undertaken at Lakes Rotoehu and Rotoma.

For more information regarding the proposed sewerage schemes, please contact either Greg Manzano or Mark Buckley on 07 348 4199.

North Ward Councillors Reports

Russell Judd

Thank you very much for this opportunity to contribute to the LRCA's newsletter. It's my view that in election year it is very important that councillors need to give voters a strong impression of what they stand for.

Airports and Debt

Many of you will know that Rotorua District Council has purchased and intends to extend the airport runway and its capability at a total expenditure of approximately \$50 million by 2014. Commissioners have heard the proposal and allowed RDC to proceed as long as mitigation works are undertaken. Property purchases alone will cost an extra \$5million and noise insulation of hundreds of homes will be over and above that budgeted. Many of my fellow councillors consider the commissioners decision on the airport plan change to be a huge win for Rotorua. In regards to those most affected by the runway extensions the decision is a win as they will get some protection. In regards to the rest of us we are not protected against the effects of debt. The Mayor and others assure us that the airport will pay for itself, but in a world of uncertainty around fuel supply no one can give that assurance. Given that debt related to the airport won't stop increasing until 2014+ then ratepayers, as the financiers, are going to be at risk for decades to come. The only way to make me comfortable about proceeding with airport plans is if the tourism industry in Rotorua put their money where their mouth is and finances the airport themselves.

User Pays Philosophy and Community Boards.

In April when Council voted on how the new Community board should be paid for I unashamedly voted for the costs to be targeted at those who created the demand. The reason for doing this is that ratepayer groups within the Community Board area have consistently called for more targeted rates and the user pays philosophy during my term on council. I couldn't agree more! Examples are that tourism promotion costs 5% of general rate and should be targeted at that industry, water and sewerage as user pays, Economic Development Unit paid for by the business community and so on. When it comes to the new Lakes Community Board I don't see any difference in philosophy: Those who want the service need to pay for it. The people in Western Heights shouldn't be paying for a community board in the east just the way farmers shouldn't pay for tourism.

Capital Value – Too Long Coming.

Ever since I have been on council we have been considering and discussing a change from land value to capital value as our rating basis. I was very much hoping for a decision immediately after the last revaluation (late 2006) of the rating database that the districts rates are assessed on. This would have given RDC 3 years to phase in a change to capital value and mitigate extreme effects. However the councillors have not decided to proceed, and it's my view that the approaching election has something to do with this. Rotorua District Council will need at least 2 years to implement phase in measures, and if those measures extend across a revaluation they will create distortions. Therefore the new Council will need to decide to go with capital value within the first few months of their new term, otherwise nothing can be done until after 2009 (keeping in mind that rates can't be changed once set for the year).

Mayor's Report

April 18 2007 will go down in the history books as an important date in Rotorua's history in terms of lake water quality issues. This day is the day the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by Rotorua District Council, Environment Bay of Plenty, Te Arawa Lakes Trust and the Ministry for the Environment on behalf of the Crown.

The MOU outlines each of the four parties' roles and responsibilities with regard to improving lakes water quality over the next 20 years and will enable the Rotorua Lakes Strategy Group to work in partnership in the future and proceed with confidence. It is an important document which commits the Government to help financially on a case-by-case basis and provides a platform to deliver programmes and initiatives without haste, and the means to continue with the good work that has already been started, knowing that the bills will and can be paid for.

I believe this MOU is a pioneering document for Rotorua lakes and also believe it will be used as a model for other councils to work in partnership with each other. Lake Hayes in the South Island is already hitting the headlines in regard to degradation of its water quality.

As Chairman of the Rotorua Lakes Strategy Group it was a proud and important day. It signals the commitment by all the lead agencies to co-operate with one another. To quote David Benson-Pope of the Ministry for the Environment "I can guarantee you my advocacy towards those endeavours over the next few years". Having the Crown on board is a huge step forward. It means that the Crown recognises that our lakes are not only a local treasure but also a national treasure.

An Okawa Bay resident has told Rotorua District Council that the water quality has improved considerably already, that locals are now bathing in the water and you can see the bottom - proof that our sewerage reticulation is working. The Ohau Channel diversion will do the same to Lake Rotoiti (it might take longer than six months) as removing the sewerage nutrient out of Okawa Bay has done.

We are on a roll.

All taxpayers are now helping to restore our treasured 14 lakes.

Kevin Winters

Given that an election will fall in 2010 it is my view, given that history repeats, that councillors wouldn't make the decision then either. Therefore councillors have a small window of time in the 5 months following the election this year to change the rating method, otherwise it may be after 2010 before we get another chance. Let's hope the new council has the intestinal fortitude to make the big decisions necessary.

I wish you all the best and I ask that you take the time to consider and research the views of your elected members as the elections approach, and even stand yourself if you don't think you are represented fairly.

Fish and Game Report

Fish & Game have been busy with the Rotorua Lakes Action Planning processes and collecting data on the districts fisheries. The game bird hunting season is now upon us and this also requires efforts into monitoring game bird harvest and making sure that hunters comply with the hunting regulations. It is interesting to note that the January 2007 aerial trend counts of game birds on the Rotorua Lakes showed that black swan numbers were at their lowest levels since counts began in 1999, and Canada geese numbers were around 70% of what they were last year. All the Rotorua Lakes were counted in the same day so it is unlikely that large groups of birds were missed, and the lakes district-wide decline from last year was similar to the trend seen across the whole Bay of Plenty.

On the fishing front the trout growth seen on Rotoiti at last opening was excellent for the 2005 autumn released fish (Left pelvic & Adipose fin clipped, or LpAd) but not quite as good for the spring released fish (Lp clips only). Over the summer we have interviewed over 390 anglers and measured and weighed their catch. This data is still being processed and will help to predict what we should see next October. In the mean time for the late 2006-07 season and winter's fishing we expect that the 3-year old hatchery trout will probably show up with a wider size range than last year as these two seasonal groups from the 2005 liberations will be more separated than usual. The mid-summer fishing was not as intense this year compared to the 2005-06 summer, so if this has any influence on late season and winter catch rates it will only be positive. Overall, on Rotoiti for the rest of the season, the catch rate should be a little better than last winter and the fish will be - on average - just a little smaller than last year. However the range of sizes will be wider than 2006, so possibly a few more trophy LpAd clipped fish and a few more smaller Lp's will be taken compared to last years Rp clipped 3-year-olds.

*Rob Pitkethley
Senior Fish & Game Officer
Fish & Game New Zealand, Eastern Region*

A black and white photograph of a restaurant interior. In the foreground, a table is set with a white tablecloth, a plate of food, a glass of red wine, and salt and pepper shakers. In the background, other tables are set, and a person is visible. The text "Your Local is a Top Restaurant" is overlaid on the image in a large, serif font.

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The logo for Duxton Hotel features a stylized horse head in profile, facing right, enclosed in a square frame.

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Update on Land Management Protection Works, Lake Rototiti

Riparian protection is an important tool for improving water quality in the Rotorua Lakes. Starting with the Upper Kaituna Catchment Control Scheme in the late 1970's, considerable progress has been made with 98% of lake margins now formally protected by fencing off from livestock, or other non-pastoral land uses (eg reserves). Environment Bay of Plenty (EnvBOP) has an ongoing policy of providing assistance to landowners to protect stream margins. In the Lake Rotorua catchment for example, around 90% of stream margins are now protected and works are continuing in partnership with landowners on a property-by-property basis. Some members of the farming community have criticised the Regional Council approach, citing weed control issues on private land under protection covenant, yet local research has clearly shown the benefits of riparian protection for water quality. With the basic action of changing stream bank land use from grazing to protection (irrespective of vegetation type) suspended sediment loads decrease by a massive 85%, and P (phosphorous) lake input from streams decreases by a third.

While the original scheme was very successful in the Lake Rotorua catchment, little work was done around Lake Rototiti. Since 2003 substantial progress has been made however, including some significant developments in recent months. Discussion with the landowners and lessee of the Paritangi Trust Block (Te Aereo Bay) has been ongoing, and agreement has now been reached regarding the development and implementation of an Environmental Programme for the property. The programme is based on a partnership between the landowners, Nga Whenua Rahui, EnvBOP and the Rotorua District Council (RDC).

Urgent lake margin protection works were carried out on the property in 2003, mainly involving two-wire electric fencing and a diesel pump water supply. These works will now be upgraded, including fully stock-proof fencing, native revegetation and weed/pest control. In addition to lake front protection, the programme will also see streams and wetlands on the property retired from stock grazing and put into protective management. This includes a Recommended Area for Protection where an endangered species of swamp maire is present. The total estimated cost of the programme is around \$89,000, most of which will be provided from public funding sources. The property has limited access during winter, so new works (fencing, weed control) will start next summer, with pest animal control and revegetation the following winter.

With regard to other urgent 2003 works, an Environmental Programme has been agreed with the owners of the Tokerau A15 Block east of Pikio Marae. On this property an independent water supply will be installed and temporary electric fencing will be replaced with permanent, fully stock-proof fencing. Protected lake margins will have revegetation plantings established, and the bush block adjacent the ski lane will be incorporated into the protection area. The programme is based on a partnership and cost share between the landowners and the above councils, and will cost an estimated \$57,000. Water supply work scheduled for this autumn has been delayed by the unavailability of the preferred contractor, but will be carried out in the coming months. Meanwhile some fencing will be built this winter. Weed control will start next summer and pest control/planting will be held over until next winter.

In lake margin protection areas elsewhere, some blanking (plant replacement) is proposed at Honeymoon Bay/Champagne Bay, and some new revegetation is scheduled at the northern end of Te Weta Bay. Pending inspection by EnvBOP staff, some blanking may also be required at Otaramarae (north of boat ramp). EnvBOP and RDC will also continue to assist the local community with lake margin weed control and plantings south of Okere Falls.

Ben Banks is the EnvBOP staff member responsible for Environmental Programmes around Lake Rototiti. If you have any concerns or queries about programme works, please contact Ben. Information on recommended land management practices can be found in the **Sustainable Options** fact sheet series, available on the EnvBOP web site or at the Rotorua office, 1125 Arawa Street.

Colin Stace, Environment Bay of Plenty



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Rotorua VHF Marine Radio Association (Inc.)



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Report From Lakeswater Quality Society

You might be forgiven for thinking that Rotoiti does not have too many water quality problems after the summer just gone. Okawa Bay residents were swimming in their bay and there was very little algal bloom around the lake. In fact as I write the lake has never looked so clear and you can see to the bottom in parts. But, in fact, just when the lake was turning we had strong winds and a colder than usual January. Blue and green algae does best in still and hot conditions.

This meant that the summer past and was one of the busiest it has been for some years. The perceptions were that the Okawa sewerage system was in operation and the Ohau Diversion wall was on its way. Rotoiti's problems are solved.

Good progress has been made this year. The Memorandum of Understanding for Rotorua Lakes Restoration between the Crown and the Rotorua Lakes Strategy Group was signed on 18 April 2007. This accord should be the catalyst to achieving the long term water quality goals for the Lakes. The construction of the Ohau Diversion is set for early July and will take approximately one year to complete.

LakesWater Quality Society no longer feels alone in its pleas to do something to stop our lakes deteriorating. EBOP, RDC and the Government are working together and with all groups in the community towards the same goals. STOPPING THE ROT AND IMPROVING LAKE WATER QUALITY.

However there is still a long way to go. We are currently in the Council's planning phase with our two main themes being:-

- To bring the discharges of nitrogen from farming and other activities under the Resource Management Act. We are strongly of the view that this is the only way to achieve the nitrogen targets over an agreed time frame. We were pleased to see Environment Waikato adopt this approach for the Lake Taupo catchment.
- To amend the Rotorua District Plan to allow for wider diversity of land use by reducing the nutrient foot print in the Lakes catchments. Principles of lake water quality which are not in the current plan need to be pushed to the forefront for any future land use plan.

The Rotorua Lakes Strategy group is working well and we continue to work with, and monitor their plans and achievements. Our small group is still very active and participating in bringing about the many changes that need to be made.

We appreciate your support.

John Green, Chairman

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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 lrcat@thomass.net

Memorandum of Understanding Between the Crown and The Rotorua Lakes Strategy Group

“A very important step for Rotorua in protecting the future of our lakes” says Steve Chadwick MP

The Rotorua Lakes (also known as Te Arawa Lakes) are an important asset for the local, regional and national community. They are also a significant tourist draw card and showcase New Zealand’s environment. The Lakes are identified as having national cultural and heritage significance.

Historical uses of the catchments that feed water to these lakes, and the lack of understanding about cause and effect relationships for these uses, have created a significant problem. Degraded water quality and associated algae blooms prevent the local community, and national and international visitors to the Lakes experiencing their true values.

The process of restoring the water quality of the Rotorua Lakes will require a long-term partnership and the commitment of the four parties to work together.

This memorandum of understanding has been developed between the Crown, Rotorua Lakes Strategy Group, consisting of Te Arawa Lakes Trust, Rotorua District Council and Environment Bay Of Plenty to assist the four partners in addressing the future of the Rotorua Lakes.

The Purpose:

1. We recognize that preserving and protecting the Lakes will take a great deal of time, effort and financial resources to accomplish the restoration of the Lakes and the water quality.
2. We recognize there are legacy problems that have been created over a long period by actions that had impacts that were often unknown or uncertain.
3. We recognize that there are significant financial commitments that will need to be made over time by the parties. This document does not guarantee or commit the parties to any financial commitments.
4. We recognize that the restoration of the Lakes will require adaptive management, where actions and approaches may change as our understanding of the Lakes change with future research.
5. We recognize that cost sharing is appropriate but that the share from different parties may vary between lake projects and programmes.
6. We recognize that the time frame to implement actions to address Lake restoration is likely to exceed 10 years and that recovery in some Lakes will take longer.
7. We recognize that all parties will be diligent in pursuing opportunities to achieve the goal of maintaining or improving the water quality of the Lakes.

Roles are specific to define the contributions that the parties will bring to the partnership and these “roles” pertain to: “All Parties”, “The Crown”, Environment Bay Of Plenty”, “Rotorua District Council” and “The Te

Arawa Lakes Trust”.

The memorandum is designed to ensure that there is clarity around the roles, responsibilities and expectations of all parties. The partnership that this memorandum reflects is critical to achieving the objective of maintaining and improving the water quality of the Rotorua Lakes. I am pleased that the Hon David Benson Pope, Environment Minister has signed also on behalf of the Crown as we proceed with this most important task on behalf of our community.

Memorandum of Understanding

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding “Rotorua Lakes Restoration” between central government, Environment Bay of Plenty and Rotorua District Council and Te Arawa Lakes Trust took place on 18 April 2007.

This is a significant step with Central Government in that they have committed to engage with Environment Bay of Plenty, TLT and R.D.C on funding for projects related to the protection and restoration of the Rotorua lakes.

It should be understood that this is not a guarantee of funding for all projects but is certainly a big step forward in that it provides a commitment for discussion on funding from central government.

Andy Bruere

EnvBOP Rotorua Lakes Programme Manager

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Sails on the Water

The first Sunday in May saw the beginning of the Winter Race series, which consists of two races each day: one an Olympic style 'round the buoys race', usually held in Te Wairoa Bay,

And the other a lake race beginning where we left off in the morning and calling into The Hot-pools area, Te Arero Bay, and sometimes Picnic Point, Pateko Island, or even Honeymoon Bay.

Winter on our lake often brings cool, fine days with light (or even no wind), conditions which test our sailors and their ability to hunt out and utilise even the slightest of zephyrs. Racing finishes at the large red marker buoy at the beginning of the channel to Okawa Bay, and is followed by very welcome hot soup at Okawa Bay Reserve (Race HQ).

This series continues on an almost weekly basis until July 15th, with a three-week break with Queen's Birthday in the middle.

As usual this is a popular series and is hotly contested by a number of keen club members and visiting boats from other Clubs. This year, however, we are missing two of our top boats while their skippers catch up with Cathy Lines and Werner Scheffer in Turkey. Cathy and Werner are currently sailing round the World in their yacht 'Legend II', which is not (needless to say) a trailer yacht! (We do get around, don't we?)

As a matter of community relations, would like to take the opportunity to give some words of warning to fishermen about our yachts. All of our yachtsmen are very aware of the inconvenience we can sometimes present to those enjoying some quiet fishing, and we will take pains not to encroach on this activity. However, it can sometimes be the case that a fisherman, seeing an approaching yacht, will correctly calculate that he can safely cross the bows of the yacht in question. This causes no inconvenience to the yacht's skipper and the boat passes safely.

All appears to be well, until suddenly metre after metre of expensive trolling line is stripped from reels! This has happened because many of our boats have very deep centre-boards (keels). With the keel down several of the yachts in our squadron have a draft slightly in excess of 2 metres, which makes us very efficient line removers.

On the yacht we are totally unaware that we have just missed being the catch of the day until we find the trolling gear hanging off our boat when we pull out of the water! We would love to return the fishing gear to the owners, but we have no way of knowing who nearly landed us!

Like both icebergs and swans, there are hidden secrets below the attractive surface features of sail-boats!

Best wishes to all our fellow lake -users.

Bruce Holt

Bay of Plenty Trailer Yacht Squadron.

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Classic and Wooden Boats — Commodore's Report

It has been a full year of well supported and fun activities for the Classic and Wooden Boats Association.

Our annual fishing contest, held at Labour Weekend saw some 80 anglers register for the competition. 18 trout were weighed in, the heaviest being 7lb caught by Chris Currie. The women's section saw a tie in weight at 5lb 6oz, with Joan Bracken just edging out Ruby Lee, on a condition factor, for 1st place. Our grateful thanks to Faye and Brian Stamp for again being our able Judges.

The weigh in and "after match" function was again held in Cherie and Bill Fowlers large lakeside shed. This is an ideal unofficial "clubhouse" for a large gathering of enthusiastic club members. Thank you for the use of your facility, it is much appreciated.

Our next event, held on New Years Day, was the Lighting Parade. Some 18 boats and crew, met at Caroline and William Main's for a barbecue before the Fairy Light Festooned Boats, paraded around Otaramarae, Te Weta Bay Okawa Bay and Okere Falls. This has become a spectacular sight with a flotilla of boats slipping through the dark lit up by hundreds of Fairy Lights, some with very innovative themes. This event is greeted with many hooters, bells and flickering lights from houses and spectators along the route. Special mention must go to Aaron Martin and his crew, who not only lit up their boat but also the crew were also dressed in spectacular lights.

Leading up to our major event, The Wooden and Classic Boat Parade, held over Waitangi weekend, a "mix and mingle", drinks and sausage sizzle was held at Commodore Buzz Rathbone's home and enjoyed by some 90 of our members.

The Parade of Wooden Boats had a record entry of 74 boats for what was the 10th Anniversary of an ever increasing popular event, on a beautiful Lake Rotoiti day. All boats assembled, as usual, at Okere Falls, at 10am to the obvious delight of many spectators on the roadside. After the Canon Fire, the boats were led down the lake by a 25 man waka.

As usual their support and tradition is much appreciated. As our entries in this event are ever increasing, our Beach picnic games destination needs "Beach Marshalls" to ensure maximum use of the available space. Our thanks go to Fraser Wilson and John Green for their help with this. But we do need some more volunteers! As this year was our 10th Anniversary, all entries received a small wooden plaque as a commemoration.

The Beach Tug of War was hotly contested by the many crews. An oversight saw the cancellation of the egg throwing competition - due to lack of eggs.

Sunday, with continuing fine hot weather, saw the Seagull, yacht and kayak races held at Whangamoana Point. This final event of the weekend was a fun casual day, with some fierce competitors seen to engage in a spot of shoving and pushing.

A Poker Run was held at Easter with the boats competing for the best hand and prizes. This event comprises of each boat drawing a card, at 4 different venues, the 5th card being given at the final BBQ destination and thus determining the winning hands. Rhonda Clark's winning poker hand narrowly edged out Robin Sinclair's.

Over the year we have welcomed 4 new boats: Allan and Rhonda Clark's "Princess", Grant & Helen Wallace's "Ellen", Mike and Jenny Low's "Genevere" and Jocelyn and Henry van der Hayden's "Elva".

Prior to Christmas, we printed and subsequently sold 100 calendars, each month depicting a photo of a different member's boat. This proved very popular so more copies will be available for 2008 or ordered through our Secretary, Alec Buchanan.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for all their hard work and enthusiasm over this past year; and also our sub-committee, who look after our varied events. All your support and hard work is much appreciated.

Commodore Buzz Rathbone

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Proposed Dam on the Kaituna River – A Stakeholder Perspective

As most locals and readers of this newsletter will be aware of, Bay of Plenty Electricity (BoPE), a member of Todd Energy Group, has plans to build a dam on the Kaituna River. The dam is proposed to be built approx. 4 km downstream from the control gates in Okere Falls. Water will back up behind the dam to Trout Pool Falls (flooding part of the so called Awesome Gorge), and an approximately 3-4 km long section of river below the dam (second part of Awesome Gorge and Gnarly Gorge) will be dry, or on a minimal release flow.

Bay of Plenty Electricity has applied for a land use concession from Department of Conservation (DoC) since the dam is planned to be partly on a DoC Reserve. Approx. 1 hectare of this Reserve will also be flooded and disappearing under a lake if the dam goes ahead.

DoC invited submissions to support or oppose the land use concession to BoPE in January 2007 and it appears a large number of locals and people from all around the country have sent submissions to DoC during February and March this year. Subsequently, DoC held a hearing in Rotorua at the end of April where opponents and supporters of the dam project were able to have a say. DoC's final decision on this matter is still pending. If DoC approves the concession BoPE will need to go the next step and apply for Resource Consent. However, speakers at the DoC hearing have made the point that granting a concession to BoPE contravenes the provisions of The Conservation Act i.e., the proposal is inconsistent with the statutory provisions for which the land is held. Let's hope DoC makes the right decision here shortly!

Being a kayaker and very fond of the Kaituna River and the rapids it has on offer I am opposing any dam projects (especially in my backyard) 100%. The Kaituna River

is one of very few rivers in the North Island that can be navigated reliably all year round and its course is not interrupted by dams. The canyons of the Kaituna River are absolutely unique in their character and of high scenic value, any projects that change this should not be permitted. A lot of kayakers from overseas come to Rotorua each year because of the Kaituna River. Even though the most used section of river is from the control gates down to Trout Pools, the river sections below have only been discovered by paddlers in the last few years and, since now "explored", more information about the Awesome and Gnarly Gorge sections is available now to fellow kayakers and the "Lower Gorges Run" is getting more and more use (I suppose more than the power company would like since they maintain that the river sections affected by the dam are hardly used for recreation).

We all know about the algae bloom in the Okere Arm of Lake Rotoiti.

Recently, approval has been given to Rotorua District Council to build a wall in Lake Rotoiti from the Ohau Channel down towards the bottom end of the Okere Arm. This wall, once built, will divert water coming from Lake Rotorua through the Ohau Channel down towards the Kaituna River, reducing the inflow of nutrient-high waters from Lake Rotorua into Lake Rotoiti. While this may hopefully improve the water quality in Lake Rotoiti and reduce algae blooms in this lake (and in the Okere Arm in particular) in the future, it will also send nutrient rich water down the Kaituna River and into a new, artificial lake, backed up by the proposed dam. The result, in my opinion, will be a new lake with green algae blooming in the summer months, turning the free flowing, clear waters in the Trout Pool area into a green cesspit.

It also needs to be said that the electricity output of the proposed scheme (some 13.5MW) is comparatively small, this amount of energy can be generated by 10-15 windmills which cost less to build and don't have such a long lasting impact on the environment as a dam structure. In this context I also need to criticise the Rotorua Chamber of Commerce who has claimed in an email that "Local Power Generation... [is] ... one of the major strands of Bright Economy future opportunities strategy". Whatever that may mean or imply, it doesn't mean that the hydroelectric power scheme on the Kaituna will suddenly provide cheap electricity to 10,000 homes in the Rotorua area. "Local power generation" does not provide cheap electricity to locals at all, as many communities in the South Island next to the big hydro lakes have found out (in fact some of them pay higher power rates for "their" electricity than Auckland residents who get the power from down south). All generated power (and BoPE is quite frank about this) goes into the national grid where it is sold at market price to whoever needs it.

There are a lot more things to be said than what's possible in this format here in the newsletter but I hope this gives a bit of an insight into the project and why some people oppose it. In the near future DoC will make a decision and we'll have to take it from there what further actions are required. However, I hope that a lot of people, in particular locals and lake residents, feel equally about conserving "our" river.



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SUBMISSION TO THE EnvBOP DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2007/2008

We thank you for the opportunity to make comment on this years Draft Annual Plan.

We acknowledge the enormous efforts made to date with the Rotorua Lakes Protection and Restoration Programme which has been rewarded with the recent signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Strategic Partners and the Crown. We commend Environment Bay of Plenty's efforts and commitment over the past year in progressing urgent actions, which are designed to make a significant contribution to improving the quality of Lake Rotoiti in the short to medium term. We look forward to the commencement of construction of the Ohau Channel diversion. We feel this single action will indicate to our community, Environment Bay of Plenty's commitment to the Lake Restoration Programme.

Plan Reference Pg 15-68

Project HQ Proposal to Move Environment Bay of Plenty's Headquarters to Tauranga

- We acknowledge that the greatest growth in the Bay of Plenty has occurred in the Western Bay of Plenty
- We acknowledge that the proposal to move the headquarters to Tauranga will mean that Staff will not spend as much time travelling and as a consequence make ENVBOP more efficient in coordinating the tasks associated with the Rotorua Lakes Restoration programme.
- We agree that the current office in Rotorua is working at capacity and urge ENVBOP to find a replacement site that will cater for growth associated with the Rotorua Lakes Restoration Programme.
- We believe the move will facilitate a closer working relationship between ENVBOP and RDC Staff which we think is essential when dealing with land use change and land planning issues.
- We agree that a Headquarters in Tauranga will improve access to the Wellington and our major funding partner in the Rotorua Lakes Restoration Programme.
- We believe that ENVBOP would serve the region as a whole more efficiently from a Tauranga based Headquarters and more specifically a better delivery of services to the Rotorua region.
- The move to Tauranga will enhance ENVBOP's ability to coordinate and manage the Rotorua Lakes Restoration Programme and allow them to work more closely with the other Strategic Partners.

Plan Reference Pg 81

Targeted Rates- Rotorua Lakes Restoration Rate

We note that the Capital Works on the Rotorua Lakes Programme relies on a 50% contribution from Government. We congratulate ENVBOP for the recent signing of the MOU and we encourage ENVBOP and the Strategic Partners to ask Government to contribute significantly to the effects of "legacy" based pollution which is a direct result of successive Government Policies which encouraged intensified farming.

We believe the funding provided from Government should reflect the National benefits associated with restoring and protecting the Rotorua Lakes to the whole Country.

We believe the Targeted rate that will be set for the 2008/9 through to 2015/16 should;

- Acknowledge the present 44% contribution of the entire Bay of Plenty region to the Lakes Restoration

Rate and submit that this percentage contribution should be maintained throughout the 2008/16 period.

- We support a polluter pays targeted rate for the remaining 56% contribution to be applied in the Rotorua District. The rate should recognise the differences between legacy and current pollution and match the apportionment of the costs to the polluter. We submit that the rate should be based on the nutrient contribution/ha to ground, surface and lake water.

- At present the Rotorua Urban Community is paying 79% of the Rotorua Lakes Restoration Rate while the biggest polluters (Farmers with properties over 10ha) are paying only 16%. We submit this is totally unfair and realistic.

- The Urban Community is already paying in excess of \$100 million to address their own pollution in the form of upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Reticulated Sewerage in the Lakes Communities.

- It is totally unfair to additionally expect the Urban Ratepayer to fund the biggest percentage of the targeted rate.

- The proposal for the 2008/9 year that will rate all properties under 10ha the same fixed amount means that large hotels will be paying the same as a single domestic dwelling- we do not see this as fair and equitable.

- It is vitally important to apply a cost to pollution and de incentivise land use practices that allow nutrient loss to the Lakes.

Plan Reference Pg 99

Environmental Enhancement Fund

We acknowledge and commend ENVBOP's support of Community based environmental projects, in the form of the Environmental Enhancement Fund and the Care Group programme. A number of these projects are in progress in the Lake Rotoiti environs. The Community appreciates ENVBOP'S ongoing support in this area.

We are aware that there is an increasing amount of paperwork associated with the implementing of such programmes, which keeps Field Officers OUT of the place they should be- Out on the land working with Landowners. We ask that ENVBOP ensure that Field Staff are adequately resourced with administrative help so they can spend more time out in the community, performing the role they are trained to do.

Plan Reference Pg 101

Environmental Education

We acknowledge and commend Environment Bay of Plenty's role in Environmental Education and think they do a great job of keeping the community informed about Environmental issues.

We particularly support the Enviroschools programme which teaches the Stakeholders of the future the importance of environmental sustainability.

Plan Reference Pg 127

Regional Parks

Regional Parks have a positive impact by preserving the special character of our region, and providing an open space for recreational activities. It also engages the community in the protection and enhancement of natural and cultural heritage values.

We believe that the Rotorua / Rotoiti Action Plan will

recognise the opportunity for further Regional Parks to meet the needs of the Lake, in the terms of the reduction of nutrient flows (change of land use) and people for their needs for quality open space experiences.

Plan Reference Pg 105-112

Natural Resource Management- Sustainable Land and Water Management

New Zealand has been hiding behind a clean green façade for years and at the same time the environment and in particular our Lakes have been reeling under the effects of highly intensified dairy farming.

The latest QECD report has dammed the lack of Environmental Policies that protect our natural resources, and have said that we lag behind in terms of providing national guidance and measures that will ensure a sustainable future. In fact they have gone so far as to say that we need to set a more regulatory framework in order that our Environment is protected. We applaud Environment Waikato's decision that will require resource consents to be sought for all forms of farming, and believe that ENVBOP has a moral and legal obligation to require resource consents for such activities in the Rotorua Lakes Catchments.

Lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti Action Plan

- The Action plan process (refer Method 35 RWLP) is about guiding a programme of action and finding ways of addressing nutrient losses from the land to achieve better water quality in the Rotorua Lakes.

- ENVBOP is required to develop and implement Action Plans to maintain or improve lake water quality to meet the Trophic Level Index set in Objective 1 (RWLP).

- The Strategy for the Rotorua Lakes also requires ENVBOP to "address the causes of lake water pollution" so that the Lakes of the Rotorua district are preserved and protected for use and enjoyment of present and future generations"

- The final plan is suppose to prescribe short term and guide long term actions required to save the Lakes and although a non statutory document, will guide future land use rules to endure sustainable land use and management.

- We believe that the time has come to make some tough choices between farming and clean water in our Lakes. We are beyond SUSTAINABILITY.

- All Stakeholders need to acknowledge that the key driver to the deterioration of our Lakes is the huge increases in the use of nitrogen fertiliser which allow Farmers to facilitate increased stock numbers.

- At present Rule 11 gives Farmers the "right" to continue to pollute at the current unsustainable level.

- Draft 5 of the Rotorua Rotoiti Action Plan does nothing to address the impacts of land use activities in the Rotorua and Rotoiti catchments.

- ENVBOP will need to provide the regulatory framework as an incentive to land users to implement change.

Rule 11 Review

- Rule 11 as it exists at the moment stops any further increases in the loss of Nitrogen and Phosphorus from land use activity.

- Rule 11 does NOT address the reduction in the loss of Nitrogen and Phosphorous from land use activities

that WILL be required to save the Rotorua Lakes.

- Rule 11 is not a bottom line....it is a level that has already been established as unsustainable.

- The emphasis of any "new" rules should be on the overall reduction of the nutrient benchmark on properties that lie in Rotorua Lakes catchments and the reduction of the load of Nitrogen and Phosphorous to the Lakes to a level as determined by the Action Plans that will assist in the recovery of lake water quality. These rules should not allow for an increase in production at the same nutrient benchmark by off setting the loss of N&P from the change in activity, but rather a decrease in the nutrient benchmark, regardless of the activity.

On Site Effluent Treatment

- OSETP addresses nutrient loading from septic tank discharges. These are tough rules which the Community must abide by to address the pollution caused by their activities in the Lake catchments.

- While we recognise the financial support given to district councils for small scale sewerage schemes, we believe an anomaly exists in the requirements for subsidy which impacts those in our community unable to join a community scheme, through no fault of their own.

- The financial impacts of the OSETP with regards to installing a nutrient reducing system by the year 2010 are understood. We request that EBOP apply a similar subsidy to OSET systems in those areas or dwellings that due to geography are unable to connect to a reticulated system.

Plan Reference Pg 167

Pest Plant Management

We urge EBOP to take responsibility jointly with Rotorua District Council, to manage the infestation of aquatic pest plants, especially "hornwort". This weed is present in Lake Rotoiti, because of its poor water quality. The control of "hornwort" is not undertaken by LINZ or Landward Management who manage the spraying of weed in the Rotorua Lakes. The problems associated with nuisance aquatic weeds are almost certainly going to get worse as the clarity of Lake Rotoiti improves. We would like to see other methods of weed control such as harvesting investigated.

We request that EBOP and RDC to develop a programme for the eradication of Willows on our Lake and Stream margins. Willows over take our native plants and change the natural habitat of our region.

While we commend Environment Bay of Plenty's commitment and progress, which has been monumental, we cannot afford to sit back and say how well we have done so far. In fact the hardest decisions and choices are yet to be made. Intensification is still occurring in our catchments faster than the effects of that land use on the environment can be mitigated.

Land use in its present form cannot be sustained. We ask ENVBOP to recognise this and move quickly on plans to remedy it.

We would like to be heard in support of this submission.

Yours Faithfully
Sally Brock
Chairperson.

SUBMISSION TO RDC DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2007-2008

Lake Rotoiti Community Association welcomes the opportunity to make submissions on the Draft Annual Plan. We are heartened to read that the continuation of the lakeside community sewerage schemes aimed at improving water quality is one of the major strategic issues addressed in the plan. We congratulate Rotorua District Council on the recent signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Strategic Partners and the Crown. We see this as a real commitment by Government to the Lakes Restoration Programme and to the issues such as funding for lakeside sewerage schemes, and to addressing the costs required to mitigate the effects of legacy pollution. We have the knowledge and science that tells us what needs to be done to restore the Rotorua Lakes to their former water quality. The challenge will be how to facilitate land use change to meet the needs of the Lake and find funds to pay for the change.

Our Association believes the Rotorua Lakes are vital to the social, cultural, environmental and economic wellbeing of our district, the Bay of Plenty and New Zealand.

Plan Reference – page 52 District Plan

We acknowledge Council's aim to develop environmental and land use policies to maintain or improve the quality of the districts environment for current and future generations.

We understand that the formal review of the District Plan is being developed as Staff time becomes available. We believe it is imperative that the District Plan facilitate land use change in the Lakes' catchments with the aim of reducing nutrient loads to the lakes, and yet accommodate the financial needs of landowners and farmers. Community involvement is imperative to ensure that the right changes are made that will satisfy the needs of the lakes and landowners.

Action Plans are in the process of being developed for each lake which will guide the actions necessary on the land to meet the requirements of the Action Plan. To ensure lake water quality becomes a principle driver in the District Plan review we submit that this will require more focus than the piecemeal approach that currently exists. Given the problems that exist within our District regarding land use/water quality, it should not be a task that gets done when staff has time, it should be the main priority of Council and be given the staff resource it requires.

Plan Reference - page 99 Revenue and Finance

Costs are caused by people of the district, and should reflect the level of services supplied rather than ability to pay. This concept is also reflected in setting the rates on a differential basis, which achieves a fair distribution of the general rate and better reflects benefits received and costs attributed.

We support the Lakes Enhancement rate as a contribution by every ratepayer to an improvement in lake water quality. Over 80% of Rotorua residents use the Lakes on a regular basis, and therefore should contribute to their improvement. We support the concept of targeted rates, but are disappointed that Council has ignored the comments and recommendations from the Local Government Commission's Rotorua Determinations and target only one section of the area of benefit. We acknowledge Rotorua District Council's efforts in keeping the average general rate increase to 3.7%. We are aware that Council is yet to perform a full Rating Review which we consider a matter of Significance and as such requires Council to provide the Community with adequate time for full consultation on the proposed review.

Plan Reference – page 64 Water

We would like to see Council develop a sustainable water supply strategy for the Rotorua District, and encourage Council to investigate innovative ideas in providing the region with water. Most water used in our district is NOT used for drinking. We would like to see Council develop a strategy whereby storm water is utilized in providing water for industry and grey water in dwellings.

Plan Reference – page 64 Sewerage Schemes

We support lakeside settlement sewerage schemes. We believe the entire community will benefit from the establishment of these schemes, just in terms of promoting and creating a better environment. We commend Council for seeking a more affordable sewerage scheme for the Okere Falls Otaramarae and Whangamarino communities. We acknowledge the \$1500 per connection contribution from the general rate to help fund the lakeside sewerage costs. This financial assistance is not available to those unable to connect to a Community sewerage scheme and submit that Council should provide the same financial assistance to those in the Community who are required to install a stand alone on site effluent treatment plant. Those who are unable to connect to a reticulated supply because of the position or topography of the site are not eligible for ANY subsidy at present and are likely to be unfairly burdened. We ask Council to negotiate with ENVBOP a subsidy scheme for those who cannot connect to a reticulated supply and are forced to install a stand alone OSETP through no fault of their own.

Plan Reference - page 41 Parks and Reserves

We commend Councils aim to enhance the urban and rural environment with excellent open space, design, planting and interpretation. We congratulate Council on being awarded New Zealand's Most Beautiful City again this year.

We thank Council for the assistance provided to our local care group in the form of vegetation clearance and native plantings.

However most of the entranceways into Rotorua are in a degraded state, especially those reserve areas adjacent to the Lakes. With the exception of the Hamurana Reserve area, most of the potential reserve spaces around Lakes Rotorua Rotoiti are infested with blackberry and willow.

Lake Rotoiti borders two major State Highways, and is one of the first attractions visitors see of our district, yet except for a couple of degraded lay-bys visitors can not pull over and enjoy the experience. Compare this with the entranceways leading to Taupo, where all reserves adjacent to the Lake are mown and planted with facilities for visitors to stop and rest. There is certainly the same opportunity for this to be achieved in the areas between the highways and Lake Rotoiti.

Plan Reference - page 59 Tourism

Further to our detailed submission to last years Ten Year Plan we urge Council to use differential rates, and targeted rates to recover some of the costs of local government services attributable to visitors. At present visitors to our City make effectively no contribution to the UAGC or the Lakes Enhancement Rate. We believe every visitor to the City should contribute to Infrastructural costs which at present are being paid for by the residents of the district.

We would like to be heard in support of this submission.

*Yours Faithfully
Sally Brock*

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No Trucks

No Hazardous Waste

For further information call RCC (07) 348-4199

Rotorua Landfill

Located off Atiamuri Highway SH30

1.6km from Waipa Junction

Hours:

Monday - Saturday 7.30am - 4.30pm

Sunday and Public Holidays 9.30am - 4.30pm

CLOSED Christmas Day

Landfill Fees Apply

MEDICAL SERVICES

Ngati Pikiao Health Services

Tamatea St, Hinehopu, Rotoiti

Ph 07-362-7888

Mon 9 - 2pm, Fri 9 - 1pm

Ngapuna Health Centre

283-293 Te Ngae Rd, Rotorua

Ph 07-345-7412

Mon, Tues, Fri 9 - 5pm

Wed, Thurs 9 - 7pm

2006 LAKE ROTOITI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Chair:	Sally Brock	Okere Falls	ph (07) 362-4764	te-pohutukawa@paradise.net.nz
Secretary:	Vacant			
Treasurer	Brentleigh Bond	Mourea ph	ph (07) 362-4700	grahamb@clear.net.nz
Committee:	Nigel Brock	Okere Falls	ph (07) 362-4764	te-pohutukawa@paradise.net.nz
	Glenys Wilson		ph (07) 362-4091	da.wilson@xtra.co.nz
	John Green	Okere Falls	ph (07) 362-4204	green.boys@xtra.co.nz
	Steve Howard	Okere Falls	ph (07) 362-4449	s.howard@clear.net.nz
	Bill Kingi	Parkcliffe	ph (07) 345-7186	wakingi@xtra.co.nz
	Phill Thomass	Hinehopu	ph (07) 362-7777	lrca@thomass.net
	Geoff Turner	Waiiti	ph (07) 362-7611	gjt@fmlaw.co.nz
			Ph (09) 578-3773	

LAKE MAINTENANCE

NOEL & SUZANNE RUEBE

OKERE FALLS

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

**PHONE Noel 027-494-8730, Suzanne 021-072-1241,
Glen 021-139-8860
PO BOX 495 ROTORUA**

Solid Wood
Furniture Restoration
Phone Kevin

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