



Lake Rotoiti Ratepayers & Residents Association



KIA ORA From Lake Rotoiti

Matariki is a time of reflection on the past, as well as the future. As clouds continue to gather over Lake Rotoiti and it seems that everyone in New Zealand knows about the appalling state long term negligence has left the lake in, it may be timely to look not only towards the future and the struggle to restore the lake, but also back towards the great pleasures given by this beautiful lake.

Lake Rotoiti has provided years of pleasure to many families and generations of New Zealanders. Its bush covered cliffs and reserves have nurtured endangered species of birds, its waters have grown and then relinquished some of the best trout in the country. Honeymoon Bay has provided a fantasy island central to the games of countless children and the hot pools have soothed thousands of aching limbs while the Pohutakawa have watched over picnics, romances, family events, high jinx, late night adventures, the meetings of old friends and the introduction of overseas guests to the glory of New Zealand life.

While Lake Rotoiti has in the last few years suffered a catastrophic decline in water quality, it is still one of the most magnificent jewels in the district, and in fact the country. The recent on-going blooms have deterred some recreational users, but many still visit our beautiful lake to enjoy those qualities that we, who have the privilege of living here, still experience on a daily basis.

We who love this Lake are fighting hard to restore the water quality to a standard that our future generations can enjoy. We hope that with enough support we, this generation, will get to see a noticeable improvement as well as be able to leave to future generations the experiences and pleasures we have enjoyed.

While we are dependent on local and central government to achieve the restoration of the lake, we must all contribute to this rehabilitation and also make sure that we hold our representatives to account in their actions. We must not let the state of the Rotorua lakes slip back into the 'Too Hard Basket'!

It is also timely to mention the extra burdens being placed on the other lakes in the area as a result of Rotoiti's poor health. While saving lakes already in trouble we must make sure we don't let others suffer the catastrophic declines Rotoiti has before we act to protect them. Lake Rotoma in particular needs to be protected. Having the highest water quality of all the lakes, it has nevertheless suffered a noticeable fall in quality. Those of us using Rotoma last summer will have all noticed the immense increase in usage – as Rotoiti emptied, Rotoma filled up. Being a small lake, it is hard to see how the lake can sustain such high levels of use. We can do several things to lessen our impact on Rotoma. Always check your boat and trailer for aquatic weeds. Watch your speed (and wake size) close to shore. Always remove your rubbish. And don't forget to explore other lakes as well!

Looking up the lake from Hinehupu

STOP PRESS!

Increase in Burglaries

In 2000-2001 houses around the lakes were broken into by Dean Vincent. He has now been released from prison and has been identified as being responsible for at least one recent burglary at Lake Rotoehu. There has been a recent increase in burglaries in the Rotoiti, Rotoehu and Rotoma areas with a number being committed from the lake. Please ensure your houses are locked securely and that dinghies, canoes, kayaks and outboard motors are secure at all times when not in use.

Rotorua Police ask that you report all burglaries or theft from your property and any suspicious activity, no matter how small or minor you think it is.

Rotorua Police 349-9400 or 0800-847-633

Eastern Sewerage Scheme

In late May LRRRA became aware that Council was considering not progressing the Eastern Sewerage Scheme to include Okere Falls and Otaramarae. This was confirmed when on June 1st at the R.D.C. Works Committee meeting the District Engineer Paul Sampson put a recommendation to the meeting that "Okere / Otaramarae not be included in the Eastern Sewerage Scheme programme".

Cr Neil Oppert put an amended motion to the floor that "Okere / Otaramarae be included in the Eastern Sewerage Scheme and research into alternative options take place". We are pleased to report that Cr Oppert's amendment was passed unanimously by the council. It is pleasing to see that R.D.C. Councillors have acted responsibly in this matter and have recognised that sewerage reticulation will play a major part in the restoration of our lakes.

FROM THE CHAIR

On Sunday the 11th of January, after 13 years of service to our Community, Jim Stanton announced he was standing down as Chairman of the Lake Rotoiti Ratepayers Association. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jim, on behalf of the Association and the community for his hard work and dedication in addressing the issues that have arisen over those 13 years. Little did Jim know that his work for the Association was far from completed, as we co opted Jim to be our spokesperson for negotiations on the current Rates Proposal.

Last year following last years Annual Planning process the Council agreed to review its rating system. Our Association along with some 400 other ratepayers took the opportunity to comment, and a revised draft Rates System Policy has been developed and incorporated in the Draft Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP).

Our Association strongly objects to the current proposal, which will see the rural differential increased to 80%. To date we have made strong protestations to the Mayor, Councillors and Council Staff over a number of meetings (some quite heated). Council has listened politely to our comprehensive and rational arguments, (thanks to Jim) for maintaining the status quo, but in my opinion have remained unmoved in their resolutions.

It is my opinion that The Mayor, Councillors and Council Staff believe that "WE"(their words, not mine) people at the Lake are not paying our way, that its about time we stopped getting a 40% "discount" on our rates.

We have had a great deal of support from Lakes Okareka, Tarawera, Rotoehu/Rotoma Ratepayers Groups, and have met many times to discuss strategies. We are all pushing for the same result, and that is to maintain the status quo. Time will tell if we have been successful in our endeavours, when the LTCCP is adopted on the 29th of June.

I would like to especially thank Jim Stanton and Richard Wilson for the huge amounts of work they have done in arranging and preparing for the many meetings we have attended on the ratepayers behalf.

Little did I know when I became Chairperson on the 9th February, how much work was involved. We came to live at the Lake for a "lifestyle" change. I imagined my life as an idyllic life long holiday, in the place I love most in the world, Lake Rotoiti. Little did I know that we were about to be caught up in a monumental Environmental disaster. That disaster has probably consumed our lives and the lives of many others ever since.

Lake Rotoiti and the Rotorua Lakes have been in and out of the spotlight ever since. Some of you may not approve of the methods used to attract National attention to this major tragedy, but attention we got! And I remain convinced that we would not have got any action if it had been left to our Regional and District Council to address this issue with Government.

The whole of Lake health warning is now in its third month, the warning issued on the 8th of March is still in place today, a sorrowful reminder that last year's bloom was not a "one off", and will probably be an annual occurrence until we can achieve an improvement in water quality.

We have had positive progress over the last 17 months with the Rotorua / Rotoiti Action Plan being bought forward (see report later in newsletter), and initial approaches have been made to Government by the Joint Strategy.

Unfortunately I still believe there is a 'head in the sand' attitude, by our District Council, who certainly do not have the same commitment to saving Lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti as the Taupo District has in protecting Lake Taupo.

There is certainly a denial of responsibility and a lot of finger pointing to others as to the cause of the decline in these major Lakes, by the Rotorua District Council.

We have to accept that we are all in part to blame.

The months of April and May have seen the committee preparing and making submissions to the proposed Eastern Sewerage Scheme, the Environment Bay of Plenty and Rotorua District Council's Long Term Council Community Plans (see later in newsletter). The decision on the proposed Eastern Sewerage Scheme will be made on the 9th of June at the Finance and Strategy planning Committee meeting. The Environment Bay of Plenty's LTCCP will be adopted on the 17th of June, and the Rotorua District Council's on the 29th of June. Let's hope our submissions listened to and taken seriously.

The Mourea Okawa Bay Sewerage Scheme is still on target (apparently) and due for completion in April 2005. To date not one sod has been turned, but I am assured by Council that everything is on target. It has taken 7 years to get to this stage, which is an indication of the commitment the Rotorua District Council has in taking responsibility for providing sewerage reticulation in Lake Side settlements.

What an enormous achievement this will be for all those people who have fought long and hard for sewerage reticulation in this area.

A proposal to include Okere Falls and Otaramarae in the scheme is now being reconsidered and as previously mentioned will be decided on the 9th of June. This Association wholeheartedly supports inclusion of the Okere Falls, Otaramarae areas to be included in this scheme, in fact we urge Council to provide sewerage reticulation in ALL Lake Settlements in all Lakes.

Lake Rotoiti's lake water quality is paramount, and it has been proven that septic tank seepage is a major contributor to a decline in Lake Water quality. We as a community must all play our part in nutrient reduction to our Lake; we can hardly expect Government to provide funding for Lakes

restoration if we haven't addressed all the issues we can on a local level.

The Hinehopu Transfer Station is progressing, Rotorua District Council have lodged a Resource Consent application.

The Hinehopu Scenic Reserve car park at the entrance of Hongi's Track is in a sad state of repair, we have asked Council and the Department of Conservation to address these issues as a matter of priority.

The Gisborne Point Footpath still needs addressing as it has been constructed in tarseal and not concrete. We have made a submission to Council asking if the tarseal footpath can be replaced in favour of one of concrete design.

A number of Ecological Care Groups now exist around the Lake. These Care Groups work closely with Environment Bay of Plenty and work on specific projects. We now have Care Groups operating in Okere Falls and Okawa Bay, and one made up of volunteers of the Yacht Squadron which is hoping to work on a project in Te Arero Bay. If anyone is interested in setting up a Care Group to work on specific projects, big or small, that will enhance the natural environs of Lake Rotoiti, please contact myself or Colin Stace, Soil Conservator Environment Bay of Plenty 0800368267.

Our Association is represented on the Rotorua / Rotoiti Lakes Action Plan, which was launched on the 26th January 2004. These lakes are linked by the Ohau Channel, and as a result share the same problems, but face different issues; Lake Rotorua is large and shallow, with a large pastoral and urban catchment, Lake Rotoiti's main problem is the poor quality of the water flowing into it from Lake Rotorua. The Working Party on the Action Plan are addressing these issues and hopefully will find a solution for both Lakes. (see Rotorua/Rotoiti Action Plan Report later in the Magazine).

Members can be assured that the concerns of our community will continue to be represented by our more than able Committee. We believe that this Association's role will become even more important with the development of the Action Plans and the short term remediation options that will be put forward later in the year. Those of you who are not already members, we encourage you to join, strong membership is essential in presenting our viewpoints and applying pressure when required. We welcome your comments, suggestions, and criticisms.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Members, Advertisers and the Committee for their support.

Thank you to Phill Thomass of Hinehopu for becoming "Editor" for our Ratepayers Magazine. It would be nice if we could have a name for this publication, perhaps members could give suggestions for the next publication in December. Please forward all suggestions to Richard Wilson 3624308.

Special mention, and personal thanks for the amazing support I have received from Richard Wilson (Gofa Boy), without whose support and tireless input I could not perform the role of Chairperson of this Association.

I feel more than humbled by the fact that I have stepped into Giant's shoes, and only hope that I can do half as good a job as Jim. I most certainly don't have the experience and historical knowledge, that would be a definite advantage, but I can assure members that I do have the passion and commitment for the Lake and its People.

I will do my best for the Lake and the community, and ask for your support during this pivotal time in Lake Rotoiti's history. Together we can make sure we leave the Lake and its environs in a healthier and more sustainable state than it is today.

Regards Sally Brock



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THE LONG WAIT By Bernice McWilliams

May 2034: Rotorua District Council issues a Ten Year Plan and invites submissions

June 2034:

Two Council Officers in dark suits are sent into the outlying districts to consult ratepayers and gather further submissions on the funding of the Eastern Sewerage Scheme, also to canvas comments on the proposed colossal rates increases.

The dark suits don protective rubber waders, breathing masks, and rubber gloves and reverse the Council's large rubber dingy into the green sludge on the shores of Lake Rotoiti. Their object is to locate any sign of human life beyond the noxious miasma of decayed fish and noxious weed. But the water is only a dribble and the craft sinks in the glutinous green slime, leaving two men to use pole to punt away to catch a small flow trickling from the Ohau Channel. The Lake Water is as foul as every dead thing.

Okawa Bay silted over, choked with tons of pollen, and the land is desolate. They turn east, sighting a strange object below the Point. It sits locked into rafts of blackened weed and mud like a petrified tree trunk. With horror, the dark suits realise they are seeing the remains of the Council's water testing craft at the entrance of Wairau Bay. Its rotting timbers are calcified, and grown over in lichen, a home for lethargic water rats. A tragic reminder of discontinued policies. They row on past.

The aged hermit Mr Ben crouches idly in his open fronted long drop hut, gazing out while an iron pot heats water in the corrugated chimney of his shack. He lives a solitary existence. He is a simple honest soul. Mr Ben lives immured within his warm gully, a prisoner of the seasons, knowing no other human since they all departed. He senses the intruders, and squats low, but the dark suits search him out.

- G day we're from the Council, can you give us some information. We see you've got an out house. - Yep I'm waiting for the sewerage. D'you know what's happening? - We'll leave you a submission form to tell Council how you would like to pay for it. - Why don't you fellas get the Government to fix the Lake? What's the hold up? - Yes well Mr Ben, it's a bit embarrassing really, the Ministry made a huge mistake. They thought Lake Rotoiti in the Nelson District was they one we meant, and they tried to fix the algal bloom there instead.....SORRY!!

Mr Ben guides the dark suits over to a decayed and overgrown picnic area showing them what NO maintenance did to the new Eco toilets once proudly installed. He reminisces for the old magic times when the plangent cries of swans and water fowl called from miles away.

He tells of the glow from heaven itself, bathing the evening hills and clear waters, also the dreamtime when a waka would glide with haunting dignity from the dawn mist, spreading coloured ripples through the satin water.

And now the trout have gone, the oxygen weed has gone, there is no food.

Believe us Mr Ben, Council knows there is a problem. They are working on it. We are dropping off some consultation questionnaires about the sewerage. And, we would like you to let us know your thoughts about the 10 year plan, also the 50% rural rise in the Rural Residential Rates. Unfortunately, Mr Ben your property is one of those. Mr Ben shifts uneasily. He now remembers not paying any Council Rates at all in the last 30 years. Perhaps he could assuage his conscience by finally paying up., because there was no one else to shift the blame to. Ben was sometimes a man of action. "Take me to town in the morning boys. I might be able to help you."

The dark suits take Mr Ben at his word. They will return.

Next morning, under a sad grey dawn, Ben hauled his way up the bush track; he wheezed and gasped using a fence batten as a walking stick. Up the road Mr Ben rested down his sugar bag of bank notes, slicked the sweat from his brow, and pushed straggles of hair under a faded peaked cap. He felt good. He whistled a scratchy tune under his breath.

A shining black limousine glided towards him in a black suit at the wheel. - Jump in the back.

Mr Ben climbed into the back very cautiously, the seats were pale cream leather. He slouched beside the car window as if expecting the seat to eject. As the town grew nearer, he gripped the sugar bag firmly, and gathering up courage, began waving with quite overt glee at startled strangers who stared back after them.

At journey's end dark suit helped Mr Ben up the marble steps to meet His Worship the Mayor, resplendent in mayoral chain, also the Councillors—a motley lot he thought. They carried papers and stopped diffidently to shake his hand.

Your Worship let me present Mr Ben. He has lived for years in the torpid wastewater you must remember we call Lake Rotoiti. My project was to search for any person who hadn't been consulted about the Eastern Sewerage Scheme and the 10 year Plan.

We located Mr Ben He is here today to kindly pay 30 years of rates arrears, and also his 50% increase in current rates. The Mayor beamed from ear to ear, and all the Councillors burst into rapturous applause. A newspaper photographer materialised as His Worship shook Mr Ben's hand vigorously, clasping him tightly around his shoulders. They stood in the centre of the Mayoral foyer beside the locked glass display cabinet, which holds the Rotorua Lakes Strategy Document, and all the officials gathered around to share the glorious moment.

This wonderful happy photograph now hangs beside the wash up sink in Mr Ben's hut, a source of euphoric pride to him, but no more than his Worship's closing remarks-

It is because of your magnificent gesture Mr Ben, that your Council will now have sufficient funds to purchase a new Launch. We will now be able to continue testing and analysing the water quality of your Lakes.....WELL DONE!

DO YOU HAVE A RAINWATER TANK?

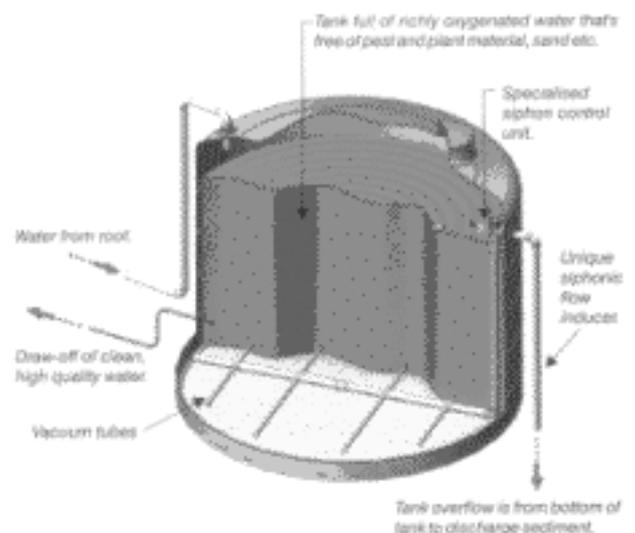
Did you know that most tanks require cleaning every 6 to 12 months as recommended by the Ministry of Health?

The sludge at the bottom of your tank is a breeding ground for a range of protozoan nasties and *E. coli* bacteria.....hardly surprising when you think of the rotting organic matter, bird, rat, mice and possum droppings washed off the average roof and out of the guttering into the tank.

TankVac is a system that removes the sludge and stale water from the bottom of your rain-water tank. TankVac does this every time your rain-water tank overflows. TankVac uses a special valve arrangement that starts a powerful siphon. This siphon creates a suction at the base of your rain-water tank that vacuums the sludge, stale water and debris from the bottom of your rain-water tank and removes them to waste.

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For any enquiries or general questions, contact Iain Charity, at:



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email: charity@pcconnect.co.nz

NEWS FROM THE LAKES WATER QUALITY SOCIETY

As usual, the last few months have been a busy time for the committee members of the LWQS. We have been making submissions on the RDC Annual Plan, Environment BOP Annual Plan, RDC Ten-year Plan, EBOP Ten-year Plan, the West Rotoiti Sewerage Scheme Proposal, the Lake Okareka Management Action Plan and have lodged an appeal against one part of the new Regional Water and Land Plan. I sometimes wonder if all these plans are hatched merely to keep organisations like ours too busy to cause any trouble (just kidding - I think!)

The Rotorua/Rotoiti Action Plan meetings have begun, with lots of information to absorb before work on planning can get underway.

We have also been assisting Landward Management in their application to Environment BOP, on behalf of LINZ, for a renewal of the lakeweed spraying consent. They have also talked with other groups such as ratepayers' associations, to be sure to get good input. Mind you, with the current state of Lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti, the lakeweed is in such poor condition that spraying is unlikely to be needed.

Cyanobacterial cell counts at the Eastern end of Rotoiti have finally started to fall, and the Health Warning for that

end of the lake may be lifted soon, if the trend continues.

The Western Basin of Rotoiti is still giving high cell counts. Rotoiti has been very quiet all summer - a sad sight although the absence of jet skies has been welcome. Apparently fishing licence sales have been down by 20% due to the state of the lakes.

Rotorua counts have been up and down, but a downward trend seems to be showing up as winter approaches. However, very recently, one reading for the cyanobacterial toxin microcystin showed a level almost 5000 times the World Health organisation drinking water standard for such toxins. I sure hope that no-one around Rotorua is still drawing household water from that lake!

Lake Okaro is still blooming, but Rotoehu has not bloomed all summer - an encouraging sign.

In March we published the Proceedings of last year's Rotorua Lakes 2003 Symposium - a major task as it ran to 330 pages. A few copies are still available at \$40. Long-range planning is underway for the next such event.

Nick Miller

REPORT ON THE 1ST MEETING OF THE ROTORUA / ROTOITI LAKES ACTION PLAN WORKING PARTY

The first meeting of the Rotorua/Rotoiti Action Plan Working Party was held at the RDC Council Chambers on Wednesday the 5th of May. The meeting was chaired by Environment Bay of Plenty Councillor Bill Cleghorn and went for about 2 hours. The working party's task is to study specific issues and solutions in depth. The problems are similar in both Lakes, but the solutions may be quite different. The overall goal is the same and that is to improve the water quality in both Lakes. The Working Party is represented by

Iwi (includes Te Arawa Maori Trust Board Representative).....	8
Department of Conservation.....	1
Fish and Game.....	1
Federated Farmers.....	1
Federation of Maori Authorities.....	1
Lakes Water Quality Society.....	1
Lake Rotoiti Ratepayers and Residents Association.....	1
Recreational Users.....	1
Urban Representative.....	1
Tourism.....	1
Forestry.....	1
Lifestyle.....	1
Sheep/Beef Farmers.....	1
Dairy Farmer.....	1
Environment Bay of Plenty.....	1
Rotorua District Council Councillor.....	1

The meeting was cordial and polite. Members of the Work-

ing Party introduced themselves, and described what they saw their role as being in the Working Party. There seemed to be a desire from all present to get on with the job of restoring both Lakes.

There seems to be a strong focus to deal with the urgent "short term" projects first.

Focus Groups are going to be formed concentrating on:

- Groyne and Diversion of inflows into Lake Rotoiti
- Diversion and Oxygenation
- Flocculation (removal of nutrients) and treatment of stream inflows
- Sewerage and Stormwater
- Wetlands
- Control Structures, Ohau Channel and Lake Levels

A lot of reading material was handed out. Research papers, some of which go back decades, but some more recent and important ones from just last year were handed out for light reading! The next meeting is on Wednesday the 9th of June at the Council Chambers and being a public meeting anyone can attend as an observer.

ECOLOGICAL CARE GROUP REPORT

We now have 3 established Care Groups working collaboratively with Environment Bay of Plenty, Department of Conservation, Lake Rotoiti Scenic Reserves Board and the Rotorua District Council.

A Care Group established in Okawa Bay, is tackling some tough weed problems and re-establishing native planting, contact Diane Atkinson Ph 3624644.

The Yacht Squadron has also set up a Care Group and is hoping to work with Landowners and Environment Bay of Plenty to restore Native vegetation at Te Arero Bay. Negotiations are in the initial stages.

The Okere Falls Care Group is just about to embark on another Planting regime in Te Akau Rd. The summer has seen some tough weed control undertaken, those sites now ready for planting.

There are 5 more sites in Te Akau Rd, which have undergone some initial weed control, this will continue over the spring and summer this year, and will be ready to plant next autumn /winter.

The Kaituna Stream Edge (by the old Okere Falls store), has also had some initial weed control, this is also planned for planting next year.

Being involved in a Care Group is a very rewarding experience, it allows individuals to have a positive effect on the environment, and also encourages Community ownership and responsibility for where we live. Projects can be small or large, but regardless of size, they have an amazingly positive effect on the whole community.

If you are interested in forming a Care Group, with a project or projects in mind, contact Sally Brock 3624764 or Colin Stace (EBOP) 0800368267.

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Ray Gosling has been in the industry for over 30 years and is the principal of Lakes Real Estate. He is a resident of Lake Rotoiti and is passionate about our lakes and even more so with trout fishing.

Betty has been selling lake properties for 10 years and has been highly successful in this field achieving many national sales awards over that period of time.

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**MATARIKI Ka Puta a Matariki, ka rere a Whanui,
Ko te tohu o te tau.**

Matariki (Pleiades) reappears: Whanui (Vega) starts its flight.

These are the signs of the time of the Maori New Year.

Matariki, the star cluster that heralds the start of the Aotearoa Pacific New Year, is important to Maori and Pacific people and other cultures around the world. Matariki is visible to the naked eye on a clear winter evening after the full moon from early to late June each year.

There are many stories about its significance as a navigational star and also as a portent on whether the coming harvests will be plentiful. If the stars in the cluster are clear and bright, it is thought that the year ahead will be warm and productive. If they appear hazy and shimmering, a cold winter is in store for us, and all activities during that period of Matariki must take this into account.

Some say that Matariki is the mother surrounded by her six daughters; other stories suggest that Matariki is a male star. These are the Maori names that make up the other six prominent stars of the Matariki cluster Tupuanuku, Tupuarangi, Waiti, Waita, Waipunarangi, and Ururangi.

Matariki is celebrated at different times by different tribes. For some, feasts are held when it is first seen. For others, it is the full moon after it rises that is celebrated and for others, celebrated and for others, celebrated are centred on the dawn of the next new moon.

Astronomers generally refer to Matariki as the Pleiades. The cluster is a group of many hundreds of stars about 400 light years from Earth and has been recognised since ancient times. The brightest stars are quite easy to see with the un-aided eye and in Greek legend bear the names of the Seven Sisters, the daughters Atlas and Pleone, Alcyone, Merope, Asterope, Maia, Taygeta, Celaeno and Electra.

This year, in the early morning of 2 June, the star cluster Matariki - or Pleiades appears in our dawn skies. The Maori New Year begins with the first new moon after the first appearance of Matariki and this year the new moon appears on the 30th June. The bright star Puanga - or Rigel - emerges at about the same time, and for some iwi it is the appearance of Puanga rather than Matariki that has significance and is celebrated.

Festivities differ from iwi to iwi, but Matariki is for most, a rich and meaningful celebration, marking the beginning of the plentiful season. It is time for feasting, entertainment and ceremony.

During the weeks of Matariki, all activities to do with providing for daily living take on spiritual significance, based on giving respect to the source of life. Crops are planted, and the Rongo-ma-tane, the God of cultivated food, is appeased for a productive return. It's a good time to gather pikopiko(fern fronds) and a host of native berries. It's also the right time to cast fishing nets and lines into the deep waters of Tangaroa- God of the sea- to make the most of bountiful supplies of migrating fish.

As the natural world re generates, and another seasonal round begins, Matariki is a time to pause and reflect on the year that was and the year that will be.

Te Paki O Matariki is the coat of arms for Te Kiingitanga.

This Whakairo can be viewed on the door of Mahininaarangi House; Turangawaewae Marae, Ngaruawahia. Hence the historical significance of Matariki to both Tainui and Te iwi Maori regards navigation by the stars, and the great migration from Hawaiki to Aotearoa.

Harbour Master's Comment - Lake Rotoiti

The pending close of another fishing season allows us to begin our winter maintenance strategy. This period will bring some changes to the Aids to Navigation currently established at and on Lake Rotoiti.

For starters you may have already noticed some beacons have changed colour and pattern. Colours and flash patterns issue a message to mariners, and whilst it is not necessarily required to understand the flash pattern, it pays to understand the colour. Let's take the beacon to the South side of the entrance into Otaramarae for instance. We have changed this colour to Red. When entering a Port, Harbour or Bay, you always correlate the colour with that relating to the side of your vessel. So red beacons will match the port side of your vessel, or, in nautical terms they will be "Left to Port". So in this particular case, entering Otaramarae will see you passing to the North of the beacon, watching it pass down your Port (left) side.

Applying your local knowledge will enable you to learn and understand this system, which incidentally is common throughout the world, with the exception of the USA (who are the only country not party to the IALA Treaty!)

Lake Rotoiti has approximately 25% of the Aids to Navigation found throughout the Lakes District. Understandably our resources are committed to Rotoiti at about the same level. We spend 1.5 days a week afloat on Lake Rotoiti once averaged, reflecting our commitment, given there are 14 navigable Lakes in our district.

Pressure on Lake Rotoiti has been down somewhat this past season, as water quality is presumed responsible for a change in the leisure loading demographics throughout the District.

I am very pleased to be able to introduce 'Marama' to the District. 'Ra's' sistership was officially launched at the end of March. Her addition to the unit has great benefits to the region as a whole, enabling us to be in two places at one time. As we all know, boats don't drive themselves, so it is my pleasure to also introduce Rob French. Rob hails from a commercial background, has been a Rotorua resident for the past 6 years, and is 'Marama's' full time Master. As you have done with me and 'Ra', please don't hesitate to say "Hi" to Rob and his crew when you see them out and about.

'Marama' is a dedicated patrol vessel as opposed to 'Ra' being our work vessel. You can expect to see either vessel, at any time, plying the waters of Lake Rotoiti.

All the best for the close of season and the pending winter. Stay safe afloat.

Yours in Boating,
Andrew Lang, Harbour Master.

Lake area properties continue to sell

Again I'm left with genuine clients looking to purchase in the lake areas. The market continues to show strength. Considering selling, or want sold on your property, then contact me.

Steve Howard



Living on the lake allows Pam and I to indulge our passion of cruising and fishing with our friends and the "Canine fish finder" My pastime adds to my knowledge and understanding of the lakes and surrounding properties.



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A Word from The Secretary

Greetings to all from Otaramarae. What a busy year we are having with Lakes Water Quality, Sewerage and proposed massive rates increases. It has certainly kept us on our toes.

A huge thank you goes to Sally Brock (Madam Chair) who has done an amazing job taking over from our chairman of 10 years, Jim Stanton.

Sally's love of the lake and her passion for the environment has seen her put in a huge effort on all lakes issues. It is greatly appreciated by the committee and most ratepayers.

Jim Stanton has been co-opted onto the committee to handle the rates issue and what a fantastic job he has done, writing letters to ratepayers and supplying the Rotorua District Council with all sorts of information and alternative rating proposals. Jim, thank you very much; we hope you can enjoy your retirement from LRRRA soon!

I thank all those members who have sent in their subs and the many who have made donations. It is important that we have a large and strong membership, as with so much on our expenses are much higher than in past years.

It would be much appreciated for those who aren't members to join. It is only \$10 per year. Donations are also always welcome.

We have spent a lot of time trying to get our database up to date, but there will always be some mistakes so if your address is wrong please let me know so that it can be corrected.

We also have a members' email database, if you would like to be included please send me your details

A big thank you to all our advertisers who help make this newsletter possible. Your support is greatly appreciated.

If I can be of any help on any issue concerning our lake please contact me.

Kindest regards to all
Richard Wilson

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Richard Wilson ph 362-4308

West Rotoiti Volunteer Fire Force

As was stated in our last newsletter, we had a certain amount of work to do to finish the interior of the Fire Station. This work has been completed and the building is now one of, if not the best in the district, as far as Volunteer Fire Stations go.

Thanks are due solely to our own members who put in the hard yards to finish the job off. Call-outs have been fairly slow during the last couple of months, but the response from members has been excellent, with good numbers at most turn-outs.

Training has been ongoing and attendance on training nights very satisfying. This year we have started to generate interest in our fishing competition a bit earlier in the hope that we may have a better response than last time. This takes place on June 13th and all are welcome to take part.

The job of distributing and installing smoke alarms has continued steadily, and here is a reminder to check yours if you have one, if not, contact us and we may be able to help.

Also a chance to remind local residents to make sure your driveways are easily accessible should it be necessary for emergency vehicles to visit your property. Remember you need permits for lighting fires.

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The 7th Annual Parade of The Wooden Boats

The 7th Annual Parade of The Wooden Boats was held on Sunday Feb 8th 2004.

The Parade went off with all its usual panache, fun and good fellowship, on a beautiful summers day. 47 boats rolled up at the Okere Arm for the assembly and Karakea.

After the traditional 5 cannon blasts, the fleet followed 2 magnificent Waka out of the Arm. A steady 8-knot sou-wester blew us along very nicely and everyone behaved themselves (at least appeared to, from the Commodores boat)!

The spectacular landing of the fleet at Cherry Bay was rather more orderly than usual - probably helped by the presence of a group of very large, fierce looking beach marshals (actually, we hired the Chief's front row for the occasion)!!

All the wonderful confusion of setting up picnics, brollies and BBQs took place amidst the usual attempted bribery and corruption of the judge. But Judge Chris Laird of Haupapa Bay stood firm and did a splendid job. Not an easy job, and his decisions and comments were well received by the crews.

The parade of the crews took place [as usual] among total chaos, mermaids and all, but somehow we all survived the day. The real winner was the bloke from Crater Lake Breweries who provided samples of their fine products during the day. He finished up by offering bottles of local mineral water to any lady crew member who would run up and give him a gentle [?] kiss. He was flattened in the stampe, but he did stand up with a huge smile on his face! Don't ever say our "ladies of the lake" are backward!

A great day, and it is pleasing to note that at least 3 new [old] classic boats will be joining our fleet this year.

This Parade is a very unique event and it belongs very much to Rotoiti. Long may it continue.

Thanks to Eric Cameronan excellent website - www.Woodenboatparade.co.nz - has been built up, recording

most of the boats that have been in past parades. It really is a remarkable document about the boats on our lake and it currently gets around 1000 hits a month.

A new and very enthusiastic group will be running the parades from now on. The departing organisers want to thank all the lake people who have helped put the Parade of The Wooden Boats together for the last 7 years.

We wish the new group all the very best. Here's to happy boating on our beautiful Lake Rotoiti.

Lindsay & Dawn Brighthouse Lake Rotoiti Ph. 07 36 24 876

News from Bay of Plenty Trailer Yacht Squadron.

BOPTYs have been operating from our marina facilities in Okawa Bay since 1975, almost 30 years.

Lake Rotoiti is our home water and is extensively used by our members and visitors for both cruising and racing. The club has over 120 members and like all lake users are very concerned at the deterioration of the water quality over the past few years. Our Squadron observes a very strict "zero waste discharge policy" requiring onboard holding tanks for effluent, including grey water.

This year BOPTYs plans to undertake an extensive reforestation project in the Te-Arero Bay area.

This bay is very popular for trailer yachts and we feel it is appropriate that the squadron should be actively involved in its conservation and improvement. We are working closely with the regional and local authorities and plan to complete the initial stages of this project over the winter months. We hope that other lake user organizations will follow our example and work for the betterment of the lake.

Adrian J. McHardy Commodore Bay of Plenty Trailer Yacht Squadron.

On-Site Effluent Treatment Regional Plan

Review of the On-Site Effluent Treatment (OSET) Regional Plan

Environment Bay of Plenty has commenced its review of the On-Site Effluent Treatment (OSET) Regional Plan. The decision to undertake a full review of the Plan came from the hearing and deliberations process on Plan Change No.1 to the plan, when some remaining concerns with the current On-Site Effluent Treatment (OSET) Regional Plan were highlighted.

During 2003, Environment Bay of Plenty met with representatives from District Councils throughout the region to identify issues relating to the OSET Plan and consider policy drafts.

Environment Bay of Plenty has prepared a Draft (Reviewed) OSET Plan and this was notified on 1 June 2004 as a Draft Plan. The Draft Plan includes a number of changes to the way on-site effluent treatment systems (including both conventional septic tank systems, as well as the more advanced systems) in the Bay of Plenty will be managed. The key changes that Environment Bay of Plenty is proposing to the rules in the plan are:

- * Revised listing of communities included on the inspection and maintenance programme.
- * Changes to design requirements for new conventional systems, including the installation of outlet solids filters and revised set back distances.
- * The need to reduce the amount of nutrients and bacteria entering water bodies within the Bay of Plenty Region, in particular systems located within the Rotorua Lakes Catchments. The plan includes a number of new rules which require on-site effluent treatment systems in the Rotorua Lakes Catchments to have nutrient reducing capabilities by 1 December 2010 and after this date, the use of conventional systems (i.e. septic tanks) will be discretionary in a number of communities.

If you have not yet seen a copy of the plan and you would like to, it can be viewed on Environment Bay of Plenty's website: www.envbop.govt.nz where it can also be downloaded as a .pdf file. Alternatively, you can order a copy free of charge by contacting Shari Kameta, phone 0800 368 267 or email shari@envbop.govt.nz. Anyone is able to make comments on any part of the Draft Plan and comments will be accepted until 4:00pm on Friday 30 July 2004.

Comments on the Draft Plan can be made electronically by emailing Amy Reid:

amy@envbop.govt.nz

or in hardcopy by fax or post:

Attention: Amy Reid

The Chief Executive

Environment Bay of Plenty

P O Box 364

WHAKATANE

Fax 0800 368 329

Grant & Shona Telfer

236 Te Ngae Road, Rotorua, New Zealand.

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SUBMISSION TO THE ENVIRONMENT BAY OF PLENTY LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN 1 JULY 2004 - 30 JUNE 2014

We commend Environment Bay of Plenty's objectives to work in partnership with the community, to protect and restore the water quality in the Lakes of the Rotorua District.

We commend the aim, "to contribute to the present and future health of the Bay of Plenty's natural and physical environment by providing leadership on significant environmental issues."

We submit the most significant environmental issue in the Bay of Plenty today is the catastrophic decline in the condition of Lake Rotoiti.

Previously the 2nd most popular recreational lake in New Zealand, Environment Bay of Plenty's greatest challenge is to restore the water quality in this significantly important lake.

Lake Rotoiti is critically degraded.

The community outcomes have recognised that the Rotorua Lakes must be protected or returned to a healthy state.

Environment Bay of Plenty has a statutory responsibility to protect and improve the water quality of the Lakes.

Plan Reference- Sustainable Water Management Pg 101.

- We commend EBOP in implementing the Lakes Protection and Restoration Action Programme.

- In implementing the small scale sewage reticulation subsidy scheme.

- In assessing and managing in-stream minimum flows to preserve the ecological health of the region's waterways.

- For developing and implementing a water sustainability strategy.

- Supporting a Chair in Lake Management and Restoration at Waikato University.

- We commend EBOP for the implementation of small scale sewage reticulation subsidy schemes in enabling communities that would previously have not been able to have sewage reticulation.

OUR SUBMISSION

- Calls for more urgency. There is a strong desire for action in the community.

- The opportunity to save Lake Rotoiti is through the short term engineering options and the Lakes Rotorua / Rotoiti Action Plan.

- This Plan must be put into EFFECT in the catchments if we want to save the Lake.

- We urge you to manage the Lakes Protection and Restoration Programme as the major project it is. Working towards the fastest effective physical action as soon as possible.

- Work on the Rotorua / Rotoiti Action Plan can be greatly accelerated and engineering and chemical methods of Lake Treatment dealt with more quickly than they are at the moment.

- Retirement of Land from grazing and planting marginal vegetation will create a buffer zone and enhance the ability to filter nutrients. With landowner cooperation this can be done immediately. This is the only action that has occurred at Lake Rotoehu, and it has had a notable effect.

- In the Council Performance targets pg 104-105 Years 1 to 5. The only definite Action to be implemented are those set out in the Lake Okareka Action Plan.

- The groyne, diversion and oxygenation are still in the research stage and depend on Resource Consent Applications. Mention must be made that initial investigations into the engineering options for the remediation of Lake Rotoiti were muted in 1985. Nineteen years later, it is time is for ACTION.

- The Council Actions outlined in Pages 103-104, give a list of activities for 3 years, but no indication of formal project management. We urge EBOP to implement a formal project management regime with performance targets, timelines and deadlines.

- The draft working papers for the Rotorua / Rotoiti Action Plan should have been ready in Dec 2003, we are yet to have the first working party meeting. These delays are costing the Lake. While politicians chant 'There is no quick fix' as rationale for inaction, there is no reason to delay all the ACTION that IS possible.

- The Lakes Management Joint Strategy Committee meetings occur only 3 times a year. We think this is far too few and submit that this has been responsible for the delay in the start of the Rotorua / Rotoiti Action Plan.

- The Lakes Rotorua / Rotoiti Working Party meetings are scheduled to occur only 3 times a year. We submit that progress, and as a consequence action, will be delayed as a result.

Plan Reference – Sustainable Land Management Pg. 98 -99

- We support EBOP in continuing to protect stream banks to reduce the volume of sediment, Nitrogen and Phosphorus entering streams and lakes.

OUR SUBMISSION

- Some 680,000 hectares of land are potentially at risk. We urge EBOP to identify these areas and take urgent action in fencing and planting stream and lake margins.

- Stream bank protection eventually increases water quality in lakes and productivity of the land.

Plan Reference - Regional Planning Pg. 92 – 95

- We support the Operative On-Site Effluent Treatment Regional Plan, which mitigates the impact of on-site sewage systems on the environment.

- As part of the implementation of this plan, EBOP runs a septic tank certification programme.

We support the Regional Water and Land Plan, and EBOP's commitment to solve appeals and begin implementation.

OUR SUBMISSION

The septic tank certification programme is not operating in all Lake Communities.

- We submit that the septic tank certification programme should operate all Lake Communities, including Council owned lakeside public toilets until sewerage reticulation in these areas are implemented.

Plan Reference Kaituna Catchment Control Scheme Pg. 169–172

- We commend EBOP in encouraging land owners / occupiers to fence off stream and lake margins.

- We recognise the extensive work that has occurred in fencing off lake margins in the year 2003.

OUR SUBMISSION

- We encourage further urgent work, needed in providing permanent fencing at all stream and lake margins.

- We encourage urgent work to be done on riparian planting and wetland restoration and creation for the purpose of creating a "buffer" zone to the flow of nutrient flows from land catchments

Plan Reference Natural Resource Management Pg 94. Bio security Pg. 202 – 204

OUR SUBMISSION

- We urge EBOP to take responsibility jointly with Rotorua District Council to manage the infestation of the water weed "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.

- We urge 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.

Plan Reference Environmental Enhancement Fund Pg 77-79

- We recognise this as a productive way for EBOP to work with people in the community to care for the environment. It is heartening to see EBOP return the benefits from investments back into the community. We recognise the significant effects on Wellbeing.

Plan Reference Environmental Education Pg. 80

- We commend EBOP for its activities which help achieve the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. It provides people with knowledge about the environment.

OUR SUBMISSION

- We urge EBOP to develop a programme designed to provide environmental education to people living in lake catchments that will minimise their impact on the environment.

Plan Reference Regional Parks Pg. 134 – 137

- We commend EBOP for the 2003 Policy on 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.

OUR SUBMISSION

We submit that the Action Plan 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 Growth Strategies Pg. 144

-We commend EBOP's Growth Strategies, which manage the future economic and population growth of the area using a sustainable development approach.

OUR SUBMISSION

-We submit that lake catchments cannot sustain further growth until it is proven that this growth will not increase nutrient inflows into Lake Rotoiti.

Plan Reference Policy on Significance pg. 273

-Section 90 of the Local Government Act 2002 requires EBOP as a local authority to adopt a Policy on Significance. This policy defines the activities that the council considers to be significant. "Significance, in relation to any issue, proposal, or other matter that concerns or is before a local authority, means the degree of importance of the issue, proposal, decision, or matter, as assessed by the local authority, in terms of its likely impact on, and likely consequences for:

- The current and future social, economic, environmental, or cultural wellbeing of the district or region.

- Any persons who are likely to be particularly affected by, or interested in, the issue, proposal, decision, or matter.

- The capacity of the local authority to perform its role, and the financial and other costs of doing so.

Significant, in relation to any issue, proposal, decision, or other matter, means that the issue, proposal, decision, or other matter has a high degree of significance.

OUR SUBMISSION

- We submit that the most "significant" issue in the Bay of Plenty Region today is the urgent project of restoring Lake Rotoiti to its former health.

We urge Environment Bay of Plenty to put all paper projects into ACTION for the goal of achieving this purpose.

We would like to make a verbal presentation in support of this submission.

We would appreciate a hearing date of Tuesday the 18th of May, preferably in the morning.

Yours Faithfully

Sally Brock, Chairperson

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SUBMISSION TO THE ROTORUA DISTRICT COUNCIL LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN (LTCCP) 1ST JULY 2004- 30 JUNE 2014

Lake Rotoiti Ratepayers and Residents Association (LRRRA) welcomes the opportunity to make submissions on the LTCCP 2004-2014. The RDC is required under the Local Government Act 2002 to extensively consult with its constituent communities and the LRRRA hopes recognition will be taken of its submissions and deliver on both the vital issue of water quality and the other identified community outcomes dealt with.

Rarely has there been such a significant and unifying single issue to be faced in a 10 year plan as the current state of lake water quality. Almost every aspect of life in Rotorua is dominated by this single critical issue. It impacts on recreation, tourism, business and culture. The warning signs have been there for decades. The lakes as a tourist destination were founded on the pink and white terraces. Sadly they were lost to a natural disaster. The situation currently exists where the current jewels in the crown could also be lost, this time by the inaction of mankind. This must be remediated at all costs.

LAKE WATER QUALITY.

We commend the Rotorua District Council for recognising in the LTCCP, that Lake Water Quality is an issue of significant concern, and a statement that Lake Water Quality has indeed been "declining over the long term". This statement is in contrast to last year's Annual Plan which stated that "Lake Water Quality was stable, but needed improving" It is heartening to see that at long last the heads of Council have come out of the sand on this issue.

The health and economy of Rotorua City depends on the health of its Lakes. Lake Rotoiti in particular has been critically degraded as a direct result of:

1. Rotorua District Council not recognising the urgency of dealing with nutrient issues in the lake catchments.
2. Rotorua District Councils complacency that the Waste Water Treatment Plan would fix the Lakes.
3. Early warnings regarding its deterioration being ignored (Lake Rotoiti Eastern Basin Nutrient Report 1991).
4. The polluted water that flows through the Ohau Channel. Even last year's Annual Plan failed to treat this issue with the seriousness it deserved. That plan noted that "Lake Water Quality was stable but needed improving".

It is heartening to note in the LTCCP that Lake Water Quality has finally been recognised as an issue of significant concern and a statement made that lake water quality has indeed been "declining over the long term".

The heads seemingly have come out of the sand; Council has recognised that it has a very significant and joint responsibility with the Regional Council for retrieving the health of the Rotorua Lakes.

The developing of the Action Plans for the enhancing of lake Water Quality in conjunction with Environment Bay of Plenty and Te Arawa Maori Trust Board is a start, but the impetus cannot and must not be lost. There is the strongest of desires across the totality of the Rotorua / Rotoiti community for the Action Plans to be turned into visible deeds and actions

The LRRRA recognised there is no quick fix but submit that action must be taken to reduce the nutrient flows into the lakes,

especially Lake Rotorua which feeds Rotoiti through the Ohau Channel, as quickly as possible. While this will be expensive, the cost of implementing programmes of action pales into insignificance in comparison to the effective loss of key lakes.

While preliminary steps for resource consents are being taken for some aspects of the Action Plan we submit that there is no reason to delay the implementation of the Rotorua / Rotoiti Action Plan to reduce nitrogen and phosphorous as greatly as possible from the catchments meantime. The LRRRA cannot help recall that the currently proposed diversion were first mooted in 1985 as a possible engineering option for the remediation of Lake Rotoiti's water quality problems.

It is indeed ironic that the 19 years later it is still but under consideration with action yet to occur.

OUR SUBMISSION IS FOR THE MOST URGENT OF ACTION IN IMPLEMENTING ALL POSSIBLE METHODS IN REDUCING NUTRIENT FLOWS INTO LAKE CATCHMENTS.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We commend the Rotorua District Council for providing leadership in marketing Rotorua locally, nationally and internationally as a great place to live work and play. (pg 137).

The reality is that Rotorua is falling well behind our neighbours in all aspects of economic growth, to such an extent that we are in danger of maintaining any of the aspects identified in the Community Outcomes.

Economic Growth is a pre-requisite to a healthy and safe community. Our Association would urge Council to provide some urgency to the so called Growth Strategies that have been reported on, but not acted upon to date.

Lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti's poor water quality is starting to affect the economy of the city.

OUR SUBMISSION

Lake Rotoiti was once a mecca for fishing enthusiasts and proudly claimed as being the 2nd most popular recreational lake in New Zealand.

Fishing generates \$30 million a year to the local economy. Purchases of fishing licenses were down 20% on last year. The bad reputation of poor lake water quality of Lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti has spread to other lakes, because people naturally view the Rotorua lakes as a single entity.

The fact is people are avoiding the Rotorua lakes and going to Lake Taupo in preference.

OPERATING EXPENSES

Given the ongoing increase in operating costs of the RDC, and the consequent rise in rates, there remains a requirement for Council to substantiate its position with such increases. Comparisons with other like sized Councils would go a long way to appease this common complaint.

OUR SUBMISSION

That Council needs a change of attitude in the way it addresses its spending. Compared to other like sized Councils RDC's are unacceptably high.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

We commend Rotorua District Council's aim to manage changes in land use so that the quality of the environment is maintained or improved for current and future generations.

This is reflected in the community outcome "a community that respects its environment".

OUR SUBMISSION

Growth is recognised to occur in the Eastern Suburbs and Lake-side areas. Any intensification of land must be carefully assessed for possible increase in nutrients to the lake. This includes land uses and urban subdivision. Lake catchments cannot sustain further growth until it can be proven that this growth will not increase nutrient inflows into the lake.

DESTINATION ROTORUA

We recognise the potential Destination Rotorua will make to Rotorua's economic, social and environmental well being by continually improving and promoting Rotorua as a high quality destination. Rotorua is never the less presently falling behind relative to other visitor destinations, because it cannot "deliver" what is being "sold" to prospective visitors overseas.

OUR SUBMISSION

Rotorua does cultural tourism well and we recognise this as an essential part of the Rotorua "experience". But Rotorua is so much more than a hangi, geysers, bubbling mud pools and a skyline ride.

The expectations of the tourist have changed, most want adventure holidays; they expect to enjoy what has been sold to them overseas.

We are promoting New Zealand as the "Middle Earth" destination with clean, unspoilt, images of lakes, rivers and forests. This contrasts sharply with our "UNSAFE" algal bloom signs that are so starkly evident at prime tourist areas.

Many of tourists you are spending a lot of money trying to lure here, only see the disgraceful Rotorua Lakefront, together with dead trout, and beer crates amongst a sea of pea soup.

The best way to sell our beautiful district is to clean up our image. This is what they have been sold overseas, and this is what they expect to see. If they can't get it in Rotorua, they will avoid it as a visitor destination and go elsewhere.

Tourist's aside, many chose Rotorua as a destination to live, work and play.

The fact that 80% of Rotorua residents visit the lakes of the district on at least a monthly basis indicates their importance with regards to lifestyle, when choosing to live here.

PUBLIC GARDENS /GENERAL RESERVES

It is noted that in last year's Draft Annual Plan (pg66) that provision was made for new play apparatus at Emery Park. This was to be completed by the 30.06.04. In our submissions last year we supported this provision. To date no improvements have been made at Emery Park.

OUR SUBMISSION

That the Emery Park apparatus be upgraded as made provision for in the Annual Plan 2003/2004.

GENERAL RESERVES

It is noted that Council uses in its parks, reserves and street planting, a great number of exotic plantings. These exotic plantings require the application of nitrophoska blue fertiliser, as has been

noted on Council gardens, which must leach to the road and subsequently storm water drains to the lake. In response to the community outcome, "provide plants that contribute to the continued sustainability of the natural environment"

OUR SUBMISSION

Is that Council set a good example to the community in terms of environmental care and respect, and plant native plantings which require no application of fertiliser which is contributing to the threat on our lakes.

INFRASTRUCTURAL

Roading

The Draft Long Term Council Community Plan 2004-2014 (LTCCP) provides, under the heading of Roothing on page 157 that the overall aim of the activity is "to provide...roads for the movement of...people in a safe...manner..."

On the same page, Activity purpose "...includes footpath maintenance and construction in...rural areas." 'People' includes pedestrians. As such there are many who live in rural areas that have to walk on the side of the road when moving from one site to another. A prime purpose of the activity is stated to "Advance safety...improvements on the networks." Council therefore commits itself in the LTCCP to providing safe footpaths for rural pedestrians. There have been numerous problems regarding the stretch of Highway 30, between Wharetaroa Drive and Emery's Store.

There has been over 13 years of correspondence with the Rotorua District Council to get a foot way between those two points, despite the fact that fast-moving traffic – particularly speeding heavy truck and trailer units – has increased markedly over the last couple of decades.

The footway as now constructed is in two parts – part concrete and part tar-sealed. The concrete section is fine and very much appreciated. However, the same cannot be said for the tar-sealed section. It is painfully obvious that what little may have been saved in capital costs will be rapidly eroded in large on-going maintenance costs (including on-going control of very invasive weeds). Members of the community have already written to Council advising of the deterioration of the tar sealed section.

The Car Park area at the Hinehopu entrance to Hongi's track is in a very bad state of repair. This area is a high profile area, for tourists and lake visitors.

OUR SUBMISSION

-That priority be given in the LTCCP for rural roads on high traffic areas to be provided with properly constructed foot ways where pedestrian traffic justifies such action, and that the construction material be concrete.

We ask for urgency be given to the construction in concrete and in full of the footpath between Wharetaroa Drive and Emery's Store

That the car park area at the Hinehopu entrance to Hongi's Track be upgraded to a standard be fitting a visitor area of such cultural and historical importance.

Sewerage

We strongly support the proposed Eastern Sewage Scheme, and commend Rotorua District Council in its decision to take the effluent to the Waste Water Treatment Plant in the city.

We support the intention that Rotorua District Council and the urban ratepayers will share the cost of upgrading the WWTP and its further \$2 million contribution.

OUR SUBMISSION

We recognise that Rotorua District Council needs to demonstrate to the region that they are serious about rectifying the poor state of the lake, and determined to commit the resources to do so: you will hardly have any credibility in approaching government for funding if you don't. The high cost of sewage reticulation is the price the community has to pay to help get Lake Water Quality back to a safe and sustainable condition.

This is not just an issue for lake dwellers but for the whole district and the burden of responsibility must be borne by the whole community. We refer to the Revenue and Financing Policy (pg 204) "who should pay relates to who benefits from the activity, and who caused the costs"

We submit that the whole of Rotorua City has caused the costs and therefore is required to share the costs. The Rotorua District Council has had 0 successes in building local sewage schemes around the lake. The Council decided to provide sewage reticulation for Mourea / Okawa Bay in 1997. Seven years later we have no sewerage scheme, no visible movement on the ground. We urge Rotorua District Council to expedite the installation of lakeside sewage schemes.

We urge Rotorua District Council to consider seeking performance bids for design, construction and funding of these schemes, especially in the Okere Falls / Otaramarae area where topography is difficult.

The District Council has a responsibility to reduce nutrient inflows from storm water. It has been recognised in the Rotorua Lakes Protection and Restoration Action Programme, that storm water run off is a contributing factor in degrading water quality. We urge Rotorua District Council to redress the decision to accept the present level of nutrient discharge through storm water, based on a single NIWA report. We need to seek reductions in all sources even though individual inputs may only be a few percent.

Water

We commend Rotorua District Councils aim to provide in a cost effective manner, an adequate supply of water of sufficient quality to satisfy the needs of communities within the district.

OUR SUBMISSION

The community expects Council to make provision for a safe supply of water to communities for drinking. It is a matter of public health. The community outcomes have identified a healthy community as an outcome of high priority, and identified that safe drinking water is essential to a healthy community.

The community outcomes have identified a community with excellent facilities and services as important.

A significant number of lakeside residents use Lake Rotoiti as a water source. Lake Rotoiti is for a number of weeks per year unsafe for contact, let alone drinking. Many of the ground water bores in the area are shallow and subject to contamination from a number of sources.

There has always been a case for a reticulated water supply in West Rotoiti, although the necessity to gain at least 70% support and the cost outlay required from small communities has so far contributed to failed attempts at establishing one.

Unfortunately the Ministry of Health has no provision for subsidy to supply a reticulated water supply.

Rotorua District Council has recognised the need to consider factors of fairness and equity including wellbeing and the ability to pay.

I refer to the statement "polluter pays" (pg 204) the city of

Rotorua has been directly responsible for the pollution of Lake Rotoiti making it an unsafe source of water. We submit the city of Rotorua use the provisions in the funding policy to "recover" costs from the city of Rotorua, to provide a safe supply of water to West Rotoiti.

Hinehopu Jetty Boat Ramp and Ski Lane

Discussion with users of the Hinehopu boat ramp and jetty, have prompted the LRRRA to make this submission.

The major complaint is that it is useless in windy weather, which relates to the location of the ramp, but also that it is very shallow, and that both the ramp and the jetty should be extended. At present only one boat can fit on the ramp side of the jetty, making it difficult when it is busy, boats circle endlessly waiting to come in. Also the "bolster" protection for boats is woefully inadequate- at the moment there are half a dozen tyres which do very little, especially in rough weather. The jetty is quite low to the water which means boats rise up on to the edge of the jetty- the tyres are spaced too far apart to be any use.

There has been an ongoing desire for a ski lane to be put at the main road end of Tamatea Street opposite the old Café (now health centre). At the moment they just tend to ski off the beach at any point. There is or was a ski lane down near the rubbish collection area on the main road, but it is extremely shallow there, and no beach area to use.

OUR SUBMISSION

The jetty needs a continuous rubbing strip around the jetty.

The boat ramp is too short for larger boats- the trailers run off the end of the ramp.

If a ski lane was put at the end of Tamatea St, people putting their boats in would have somewhere close to go still with beach and facilities and would be separated from swimmers and other lake users.

The issue of the boat ramp and ski lane at Hinehopu was bought up last year with Andrew Lang. At that time he was going to make a recommendation to Council

Rating Policy (Page 209...)

Council is undertaking a review of rating policy due primarily to the legislative changes which became effective under the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002. This Association has a long history of contributing to 'rates' debate through the ongoing submission process and can claim to be very well versed in the issues surrounding this subject. We have been a leading participator in the current review process to date and Council will be well aware of our strong objection to the rural residential rates increases proposed in the Draft LTCCP.

Council is continuing its predilection for singling out rural residential ratepayers to carry the bulk of any shifting rates burden. Following the 1991 incursion, this occurred again in 1999 and is now spotlighted once more. As in the past, no justifiable reasons have been advanced to support these decisions. The latest motives seem to be a question of 'whether the rural residential sector should continue to enjoy a 40% discount over urban' (this is a proven fallacy as explained later) and 'the urban/rural boundary is now not as relevant as it was' (no convincing substantiation has been forthcoming).

As statistics show, the rural residential sector overall is currently contributing 34% more on average than their urban counterparts at the present 60% differential. At the proposed 80% differential, this group will be paying 79% more overall than urban residents. Unsurprisingly, rural residents completely reject any change

to the existing differential and will vigorously oppose the implementation of such proposals.

Our submissions of 19 January 2004 and 17 March 2004 comprehensively detail the reasons for opposing the present proposals to increase the urban/rural differential for residential properties. In essence, the rural land values are 2.24 times those of urban on average and 1.78 times on median figures supplied by Council (it should be noted that the median figure for rural residential stated in the LTCCP is incorrect and should read \$66,000 as advised subsequently). Either way therefore, the overall rural take is greater than that of urban.

Whilst the rural sector acknowledges those improvements effected over the past 10 years, in real terms there has been no significant change to the level and cost of services, or access to facilities and amenities since 1991. We are still rural communities. We do not have the same ready access to employment, education, shopping, organised recreation and essential services as that enjoyed by satellite towns and suburbs e.g. Ngongataha and Lynmore. Basic rural facilities are diminishing and the cost of travel to the nearest town centres is ever increasing. Rural residents do not seek major urban facilities so these defining characteristics are an integral part of the consideration in setting the differential. Council itself recognises that people rather than land cause costs and use services and that this should be reflected in the rating mechanisms selected.

In this review, Council also identified a need to provide relief for the commercial and farming sectors. We have supported this action in principle but make no specific judgement on the extent to which it should be provided. The Employers and Manufacturers Association regularly promote the view that tax concessions for business enterprises should not be taken into account when setting rates. It is nevertheless a fact that for the majority in these sectors, rates are deductible as a cost before tax on profits, a provision not enjoyed by the residential group. It is agreed that circumstances surrounding the ability to pay vary widely but this applies to every sector of the community and has to be viewed subjectively across the board. Council has noted that well-being considerations provide for issues of ability to pay and rating/taxation principles to be taken into account.

It is apparent that Council has determined that farming properties should not pay at a higher differential than residential. The preceding paragraph outlines one significant mitigating factor in this argument. However, to accommodate the retention of 60% as the rural residential differential, adjusting the proposal would not be too difficult and would have only minor implications on the other sectors.

Council is proposing to set a targeted rate to fund costs associated with Destination Rotorua. We fully support this concept. We have over many years expressed concern regarding the amount

of general rates utilised for the promotion of tourism marketing and economic development. Whilst we continue to recognise that a certain amount of benefit is derived by all ratepayers from this activity, we once again reiterate the need to cap the amount provided by general rates to existing levels with no further increases apart from incremental adjustments related to CPI factors. We believe that any additional costs should essentially be funded by the industries main beneficiaries.

Council has signalled that this review is not fixed within the current year and should be regarded as the beginning of a transition that may take two or even several years. Conversely, the LTCCP proposal is seen to be promoting significant changes in a relatively short space of time, perhaps quite insufficient time to fully consider the implications or alternatives. Major anomalies highlighted by the rural residential sector during recent debate strongly suggest that Council should undertake further and more thorough investigation before instituting some of these changes.

1. THAT WE STRONGLY OPPOSE ANY INCREASE TO THE EXISTING RURAL RESIDENTIAL DIFFERENTIAL OF 60%. IT HAS BEEN PROVEN THAT THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR DOING SO AND ANY RE-DISTRIBUTION OF RATES TO THE RESIDENTIAL SECTOR SHOULD BE EVENLY DIVIDED BETWEEN URBAN AND RURAL.

2. THAT OUR COMMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED RE-DISTRIBUTION OF RATES AND OUR SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVES BE AFFORDED CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.

3. THAT COUNCIL, AS PREVIOUSLY SIGNALLED, SUBJECT THE REVIEW TO FURTHER SCRUTINY AND INVESTIGATION OVER TIME BEFORE REACHING FINAL DECISIONS.

IN CONCLUSION

The Rotorua Lakes, and in particular Lake Rotoiti and its residents have been ignored locally and nationally for too long.

Tourism was founded on these Lakes, and their health is paramount to the economic health of Rotorua as a city.

It is your joint responsibility to restore them to their jewel status. It is your responsibility to address those issues which are RDC's responsibility.

It is essential to commit the resources to the future of the lakes, the future of the economy and the future lifestyle of its residents. We wish to be heard in support of this submission and request the morning of Tuesday the 8th of June.

We also request that we be allotted 2 concurrent time slots for the purpose of speaking to a number of important issues.

Yours Faithfully

Sally Brock , Chairperson

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2004 Lake Rotoiti Ratepayers and Residents Association Committee

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Wherever you pay rates, it pays to vote!

Do you live in one local authority area and pay rates on a property in another?

Then you may qualify to vote in both areas at the local authority elections this October as a non-resident ratepayer.

To be able to vote as a non-resident ratepayer, you must apply to be on the Ratepayer Electoral Roll by the 20th August 2004 to receive a voting document.

Residential electors;

- If you are on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll you will automatically be on the local authority residential roll.
- You are entitled to vote for the regional council, district health board, city or district council and in some areas, a community board and licensing trust in the area you live.

Non-Resident Ratepayer electors;

If you live in one local authority area or community board but pay rates on a property in another, you may be entitled to a vote as a non resident ratepayer elector in that local authority area or community board too.

Information will be sent out with your next Rates Demand.

**Check if you qualify as a non-resident ratepayer elector
Call 0508 9 10 2004**

Important Phone Numbers

Fire, Police, Ambulance	111
Search and Rescue	111
Accident / Medical Care Centre (8am-10pm)	348-1000
Urgent Pharmacy (8.30am – 9.30pm every day)	348-4385
Rotorua Hospital	348-1199
St John Ambulance	348-6286
Poisons Information Centre	03-474-7000
Rotorua Police Station	348-0099
TrustPower Emergency	0800-878-787
Energy Online Faults	0800-083-285
Environment Pollution Hotline	0800-738-393
S.P.C.A	349-2955
Dog Control (RDC)	348-4199
Rotorua Harbour Master – Andrew Long	348-4199
- After Hours 348-4195 - AH Pager	08-650-374-645
Rotorua Coastguard – Richard Packham	348-9490
Rotorua Marine Radio – Dave Hutchings	348-7429
Dept. of Conservation	346-1155
M.A.F.	07-578-2069
Fish and Game Eastern	357-5501
Fish and Game Licences	0800-542-362
Poaching	0800-762-244
Environment Bay of Plenty	0800-368-267
Rotorua District Council	348-4199
Lake Maintenance	362-4814
Pump Maintenance – Hi Flo Pumps	348-7516
- After Hours	025-274-6881
Septic Tank Services – Allens United	332-3694
Emerys Store	362-7866
Happy Angler Store	362-4690
Rotoma Trading Post	362-0722

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Weekly Household Refuse Collection

Only RDC Official Bags will be collected

Place at kerbside by 8am on collection day

Tie bags securely

No changes to collection days on Public Holidays.

Refuse & Recycling Okere Transfer Station

Located at Okere Rd (just south of SH33)

Hours: 1.00pm - 4.00pm Wednesday

10.00am - 4.30pm Sundays

1.00pm - 4.30pm Last afternoon of Public Holiday

Landfill Fees will apply. Recycling Free of Charge

Please Note: No hazardous wastes ie oils, chemicals, refrigeration units, car bodies, etc accepted at Transfer Stations

Commercial and Out-of-District refuse prohibited.

Rotorua Landfill

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1.6km from Waipa Junction

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Monday - Saturday 7.30am - 4.30pm

Sunday and Public Holidays 9.30am - 4.30pm

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Landfill Fees Apply

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Hinehopu

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Wed 9 - 1pm, 4 - 7pm

Fri 9 - 1pm

Mourea

Tues 9 - 1pm, 2 - 5pm

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