

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Lake Rotoiti Community Association**

Held on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2011 at the Pikiaro Rugby League Club, Mourea

### **Present**

Mary Stanton (Life Member)  
Todd McClay (Rotorua MP)  
John Cronin (Chairman, BOPRC)  
Ian Noble, Lyall Thurston, Tai Eru Morehu (BOPRC Councillors)  
Dave Donaldson, Charles Sturt, Maggie Bentley, Mark Gould (RDC Councillors)  
Hilary Prior (Chair), Nick Miller, Gerald Plested, Keith Smith, Phill Thomass, Fraser Wilson, Dave Wilson (LRCA Committee Members)  
Brentleigh Bond (Chair, Rotorua Lakes Community Board)  
Bill Kingi (Past committee member)

### **Apologies**

Mr & Mrs Don Atkinson, Mr & Mrs Jim Howland, Mr Jim Stanton, Kevin Winters (Mayor), Peter Guerin, Karen Hunt, Geoff Palmer (Dep. Chair RLCB), Steve Chadwick (MP), Mrs Judy Smith, Mrs Hilma Gill, Mrs Faye Stamp.

### **Welcome**

Hilary Prior opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Tai Eru provided a Karakia and introduced Geoff Rice (Tapuika) and Tom Walters (Rewiti) of the Confederation of Arawa Tribes.

### **Minutes of 2010 Annual General Meeting**

Hilary asked for a proposal for the approval of the minutes. Proposed by Tai Eru, seconded by Mary Stanton. Carried.

### **Matters Arising**

Bob Armstrong moved a motion of thanks – “that this meeting records its appreciation of the sterling efforts put in over countless hours by the Association’s Executive Committee members, on behalf of the general members of the Association, in providing submissions that were of the highest standards.”  
Seconded by John Green and approved by the meeting.

### **Chairperson’s Report**

Hilary referred to the Chairperson’s Report in the newsletter, and thanked Graeme Christie, a senior partner of Simpson Grierson, for giving his time and advice to the committee and making a contribution towards the legal costs incurred over the Okere Gates Consent submission. She also thanked the outstanding sub-committee (Warren Webber, Brentleigh Bond, Michael Gill, Nick Miller, Jim Stanton) that spent so many hours to make accurate, focussed and succinct submissions. Thanks were made to Ian McLean for chairing two public meetings so professionally this year. Appreciation was expressed for the work of the Lake Rotoiti Care Group led by Jan Wilkins. Offers of help with work around Okere and on the Lake beaches are welcome.

Lakeweed is expected to be an issue for the LRCA to tackle in the future – increased photosynthesis and clearer water means more growth of weed. The Association supports John Green and the LWQS for their efforts on this issue.

## **Presentation by Warren Webber – current status of Okere Gates Resource Consent application**

Toby Curtis (Chair, Te Arawa Lakes Trust) & Bill Bayfield (Chair, BOP Regional Council) invited LRCA to join the technical working group earlier in the year. It was an advantage that all the community groups have worked together and become more united. Issues were replacement with a weir vs. managed gates, and whether flooding would be controlled.

A proposed gates operating range, with consideration given to those affected by flooding and jetty access, was developed. BOPRC suggested amended conditions. In the LRCA application a proposed annual flush of the Ohau Channel, to remove silt, is included during the expected percentage of days at low lake levels.

A Commission Hearing was held in early December. The Commissioners found the LRCA's graphics very helpful in their decision-making process. It demonstrated lake levels over time – historical, managed, target and proposed. Commissioners are to give their decision by 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2011. It will be left for 20 days for comments before becoming legislation, pending any appeals.

Any time above median level, groundwater becomes an issue for Hinehopu residents. This occurs when rainfall adds water faster than it can leave at Okere. The proposal includes clearance of Hinehopu drains, closing the culverts and installing pumps, and 12 months of monitoring to study effects. If 2011 is not a typical year, monitoring will continue. Phill Thomass reported that the contractor has removed monitoring equipment and BOPRC have not yet contacted landowners or installed monitoring equipment. The drainage channels were cleared regularly until the 1990s. On-going costs of flood mitigation is a concern to BOPRC. If groundwater level is found to be influenced by the level of Lake Rotoiti, the conditions will be amended.

Geoff Rice, of Tapuika, supports the retention of the Gates at Okere, for management of water levels. A question was raised regarding dredging of Ohau Channel – a proposed Kaitiaki Group is to look into the background and is to make recommendations from a cultural view. Also Fish & Game are interested in the issue. Hydrology of the system needs to be better understood before action is taken. Mary Stanton wants better understanding of the Ohau Channel, and historical lake levels before any dredging that would damage the shingle base is undertaken.

Warren Webber reported that the predominant influence on the water level in the Ohau Channel is now understood to be the level of Lake Rotorua. Hydraulic friction and flow rate of water coming into the Channel also influence the water level. Engineers in Wellington have contributed to the discussion.

Tai Eru spoke of the history of the Channel, including its changed path, and the connections with the local Iwi.

Tom Walters spoke of the necessity of cleaning up the water at the source (Lake Rotorua) so that the water entering Rotoiti and the Kaituna River is cleaner. He fully supports LRCA in their endeavours.

Geoff Rice considers it essential that cleaning up water quality is taken care of, and reinforced the necessity of communication across localities, from Lake Rotorua and Rotoiti down to Maketu.

Hilary concluded with the observation that a lot has been achieved during the year, and the community is closer to finding genuine consensus than ever before, setting a basis for all going forward together.

## **Financial Report**

Gerald Plested, Treasurer, explained the accounts and reported that compared with 2009, the 2010 year was exceptional, with expenditure over income of \$5000. Income was similar to previous years but expenses were up about \$10,000:- about \$4000 of that in the planned increased costs of the new upgraded newsletter, plus \$6000 of extraordinary expenses, mostly legal and professional fees incurred by the Association to influence the direction of the resource consent process relating to the lake level control structures. This is not the end of these resource consent related legal expenses and \$3,600 further such costs have already been incurred in the new financial year. These extraordinary expenses have depleted

our cash reserves and may worsen and a call has been made for larger donations from those who can afford to.

Gerald moved that the accounts be accepted. Seconded: Phill Thomass. Carried

Question from Ivan Thomson: Is there a projected budget deficit? Gerald answered that there will not be a deficit as long as there are no more legal expenses.

Comment from John Green: If there is an objection to the Commissioners' ruling the Association will need considerable funds if they propose to go to the Environment Court. Gerald agreed that those costs should be avoided.

Position of Auditor: In an oversight last year an auditor was not appointed at the AGM but we obtained the services of Jerry Beban of Cambridge who donated his services for year ending Sept 2010. The Association recorded their thanks to Mr. Beban for his assistance. An auditor for the new year was sought from the meeting and Graham Prior volunteered.

Gerald moved that Graham Prior be accepted as auditor. Seconded: Phill Thomass. Carried

### **Election of Officers**

Hilary stood down as Chair of the meeting. Nominations were called for the position of Chair of the Association.

Hilary Prior was nominated by Nick Miler, seconded by Fred Hoogveld. Nominations closed. Hilary was accepted by acclamation. Hilary resumed the chair.

Committee Election:

Hilary read out names of current committee prepared to stand. Proposed by Bob Armstrong, seconded by John Green, that those people be re-elected *en bloc*. Carried.

Proposed by Hilary that Warren Webber, who had worked very extensively with the committee over the previous year, join the executive committee. Seconded by Phill Thomass. Carried.

Brentleigh Bond was recognised for his work as Chair of the Rotorua Lakes Community Board and his attendance and advice over the year at LRCA committee meetings.

Hilary thanked the community for their support throughout a very active year.

### **General Business**

- West Rotoiti Volunteer Fire Unit

Hilary introduced Andy Uhl, local Fire Chief of the West Rotoiti Volunteer Fire Unit and suggested that the community needs to support the Unit more than it currently does, considering the effort it puts forward. The WRVFU newsletter was sent out inside the LRCA newsletter. Andy Uhl spoke on the work of the Fire Unit. Their primary role is to attend bush fires but they also attend road accidents, house fires and other local emergencies. The Unit covers from Hamurana down to the Whakatane turnoff and out to Rotoma, down the highway to 18km north of Okere.

They appreciate support from the Lake Rotoiti Charitable Trust, who funded new equipment. The Unit is always looking for new members. The fire truck was made available for inspection after the meeting.

Matthew Webber, cardiologist, explained the use of the defibrillator to help restart hearts after a heart attack. It is operated by the Fire Unit, and available to all the community. In a 111 ambulance call, mention that the Fire Unit has a defibrillator, to save response time.

- Hilary urged that all membership information needs to be kept up-to-date and that the Association is always looking for new members.

- Nick Miller spoke regarding sewerage installation at Okere, and concerns regarding how the Council is implementing it, especially regarding compulsory decommissioning of septic tanks once sewerage is connected. He wrote that he is not prepared to agree to the proposed decommissioning of his tank, which would involve removing the lid, punching holes in the bottom and filling with soil. He would consider it a backup in a civil emergency such as the recent Christchurch earthquake. No reply was received from contractors (Downers ED) but a reply from an RDC Officer expressed an opinion that septic tanks would not survive an earthquake. However, at this stage none are known to have failed in the Christchurch earthquake and the Council there is installing temporary septic tanks. Nick urged others to take up this issue with RDC.

- Mary Stanton spoke regarding a water supply in Mourea. Additional houses cannot be put on Maori land unless a water supply and sewerage are available. RDC have never given a price for a water supply, but have offered to supply water from Hamurana if there is enough support. Many local Mourea Maori cannot afford proposed fees for water supply or sewerage. She considers that it would be cheaper to get a water supply from a local spring than to put down multiple bores, as happens at present.

Nick Miller said that the unresolved issue had a long history. He moved that the meeting empower LRCA to put some real pressure on RDC to provide a realistically priced water supply for Mourea. Seconded, Keith Smith. Carried

- Charles Sturt, RDC Councillor, spoke on behalf of RDC about the problem of getting enough community support for a water supply. The law requires a definite level of support from the community, before Council are required to provide a supply. They have not been able to get support from non-residents (holiday home owners) at Mourea.

Charles suggested that Nick make a submission to the Council about decommissioning of septic tanks.

Rates. New property valuations will mean that those at the higher end of the market will get a rates increase, while for those at the lower end rates will drop. He advised residents to make a protest before the rates are billed, if they disagree with their rateable value.

- A Gisborne Point resident reported that they had received good assistance from RDC staff and the engineer Greg Manzano over their sewerage.

- Phill Thomass thanked Andy Uhl from WRVFU for their work but reminded those from the eastern end of Lake Rotoiti that the Rotoma Fire Service fills a useful role in that area. It is a much smaller organisation with less support.

- John Green thanked Hilary for doing a fantastic job during this year, with such a challenge to work through.

Tai Eru closed the meeting with a karakia. The meeting ended at 12.05 pm.