

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

Held on January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017, 10 am, at Pikiaro Rugby League Club, Mourea.

### **Present**

Jim Stanton, Mary Stanton, Nick Miller, Elizabeth Miller, Phill Thomass, Ian McLean (Life Members)  
Steve Chadwick (Mayor of Rotorua)  
Dave Donaldson, Merepeka Raukawa-Tait (RDC Councillors)  
Doug Leeder (Chair, BOP Regional Council)  
Lyll Thurston (BOPRC Councillor)  
Nick Chater, Jim Stanton, Fred Stevens, Phill Thomass (Rotorua Lakes Community Board)  
Hon. Paul East  
Hilary Prior (Chair), John Bowen, Sherilyn Coney, Nick Miller, Jim Stanton, David Wilson, Fraser Wilson (LRCA Committee).

Approximately 70 people in total were present at the meeting.

### **Apologies**

Karen Hunt, Charles Sturt (RDC Councillors); Norman Bruning, Kevin Winters (BOPRC Councillors); Andy Bruere (BOPRC); Claire Miller, Warren Webber (LRCA Committee); Anne & Robbie Sinclair, Saxon Crawford, Julie & Malcolm Macdonald, Marcus Wilkins, Faye & Brian Stamp, Ann Green, Buzz Rathbone, Alistair Spence, Grant Wallace, Warren & Margaret Long, Newton family, Keith & Karen Larkin, Dickson family.

Motion: Hilary Prior moved that they be accepted, Seconded: Elizabeth Miller. Approved.

### **Welcome**

Derek Morehu, Ngati Pikiaro kaumatua, provided a karakia for the meeting.  
Hilary Prior opened the meeting and welcomed all official visitors and others present.

### **Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting**

Motion: John Green proposed that the Minutes be accepted, seconded by Jim Stanton. Accepted by the meeting.

### **Matters arising**

Nil.

### **Chair's Report**

The community has lost two special members of the community recently and Hilary paid tribute to them. Fred Whata, had been kaumatua not only for the local area but for the District and High Courts in the greater Waikato region, introducing kaupapa Maori protocols that have been adopted nationally. He participated in numerous meetings about the lakes and worked tirelessly on aspects of importance to the community. Mita Mohi had been a former North Ward Councillor and supporter of the Association, apart from his widely respected, long-term work with young Maori. Both will be greatly missed.

**Eastern Rotoiti Rotoma Sewerage Scheme:** Hilary asked Ian McLean, Chair of the Eastern Rotoiti Rotoma Sewerage Committee, to advise on progress. It has been a three-year process so far, with cooperation from Councils, and Ian thanked the organisations involved for their support. It took time to find a site and get technical work done. The resource consent application has been notified and submissions received. There seems good hope of finding resolution to the objections. There are still issues to be resolved, including charging for the scheme and assessing results from the Biolytix trials. Design details are still to be completed. Hilary thanked Ian for all his work on the Scheme.

**Rating equity:** Lakes Community Board expects to submit to the 2018-2028 Long-Term Plan as part of the rating review.

**Ohau Diversion Wall:** Beca are drafting an application for renewal of the resource consent. The wall has had a huge impact on the health of Lake Rotoiti, and it is hoped that consensus on the application will be reached.

**Rubbish & Recycling:** Hilary apologised to the meeting that despite the Association Committee spending a lot of time assisting Rotorua Lakes Council they had not been successful in achieving rural residents' requirements over new rubbish collection details. The logistics of implementation have not gone well. A store of orange plastic rubbish bags will be available for purchase from the local Transfer Station from next opening day. A recycling and rubbish bag deposit depot is now open 24/7, but unfortunately people have been tipping commercial building material waste and other bulky items into the main bins when the station is unattended. A solution, partly blocking the access, has been suggested. The Smart Environmental truck driver, Les, is very helpful - a 'treasure'.

**Out of the Forest by 2019:** Dave Donaldson outlined the waste treatment proposal for Rotorua, after disposal in the forest is discontinued. A major upgrade to the treatment plant is planned. Currently part of the sewage is passed through a MBR system (Membrane Bioreactor) but it is planned that all sewage will be treated through an MBR filter process, then through UV sterilisation. The treated water will be almost at NZ Drinking Water Standard. It will then pass into a rock bed, before filtering out into Puarenga Bay, which is very acidic and does not support any life except trout fly larvae.

The Steering Group is working on four projects: the upgrade to the treatment station, the Eastern Rotoiti Rotoma Sewerage Scheme, Lake Tarawera sewerage system, and a scheme for Lake Rotoehu. Councillor Tania Tapsell will be on the Rotoehu committee and report to the main committee.

**Roading:** As the main highway from the airport to Paengaroa becomes busier, especially in the Okere Falls area, improvements are needed. The Safe Roads programme has been established by the NZ Transport Agency to plan improvements, and community input is sought. Meetings are planned in February for public input and feedback.

The popularity of the end of Trout Pool Road for freedom camping is causing problems with over-crowding and associated issues. Suggestions for improved management of the area are being investigated.

**Okere Gates:** A Cultural Impact Assessment is being produced by Ngati Pikiao Environmental Society with assistance from BOPRC.

**Lakes Structures:** The topic of lake structure resource Consents was raised and reference made to The BoPRC website on matters pertaining to lakes structures, application processes and fees. A Deposit fee of \$774 for renewal application will replace the current annual fee. Holders are required to ensure that their consent is up-to-date, and need to apply before their consent expires. They need to sign a contract with relevant landowners, who may be Te Arawa Lakes Trust, Rotorua Lakes Trust, or Department of Conservation. Regional Council has offered to send out a customised form to help consent holders. It is possible to apply to condense multiple structures into a single consent. LRCA will show on their website a link to this information

The Chairman of BoPRC spoke about their plan to make the process for owners simple on behalf of all authorities (BoPRC, RLDC, LINZ and DoC. This provoked some discussion and concern, which led to a motion that a sub committee be established to ensure members interests were preserved by working with the respective authorities

## **Financial Report**

Jim Stanton presented the financial statement on behalf of Don Stotter, who was unable to be present. Banking has been changed from ASB to Kiwibank to reduce transaction fees. Income is from subscriptions and donations, and main expenses are for newsletter production, website operation and meeting expenses.

Increased excess income over expenditure is mainly due to production of only one newsletter in 2016, compared with two in 2015. There were no questions.

Graham Prior, honorary auditor, was thanked for his services.

Motion: It was moved by Hon. Paul East that the financial report be accepted, seconded by John Green. Accepted by the meeting.

## **Election of Officers**

**Chair**: Jim Stanton took the chair for election of chairperson. He thanked Hilary for her hard-working contribution to the Association, to acclamation by the meeting. Jim commented that Hilary had been Chair for several years and although she was willing to continue at present, it was important to consider succession.

Hilary Prior was nominated by Jim Stanton, seconded by Bob Armstrong. There were no other nominations. There was further acclamation to acknowledge her acceptance.

**Committee**: Of the present committee, Nick Miller is retiring, and Phill Thomass, now chair of the Lakes Community Board, is also standing down as he needs more time for that role, but will attend some meetings as an invited guest.

Committee members re-standing: John Bowen, Sherilyn Coney, Claire Miller, Jim Stanton, Don Stotter, David Wilson, Fraser Wilson.

Nick Chater was nominated for the committee by Jim Stanton, seconded by Jan Wilkins.

Motion: It was moved by Bob Armstrong that those prepared to re-stand, together with Nick Chater, be accepted *en bloc*. Seconded by Nick Miller. All agreed.

## **Lakes Community Board**

Phill Thomass reported that the LCB is looking for new ways to communicate with the community. Meetings will be in a different format, with workshops on issues of interest. The first meeting on 14 February will discuss: 1. Whether the community would like green waste drop-off at the local transfer station; 2. How freedom camping should be managed to work for the community and for tourists; 3. Which three main issues the community would like the LCB to advance to the Long Term Plan.

## **General Business**

### **Steve Chadwick, Mayor of Rotorua:**

- Steve acknowledged that there have been some challenging issues during the year. She thanked Hilary for her work, and also thanked Ian McLean for his work and leadership in the Eastern Rotoiti Rotoma Sewerage Scheme Steering Committee, dealing with overlapping interests, and avoiding the Environment Court.
- She advised the Association to get Thomas Colle (Rotorua Lakes Council) to meet and give an overview and context on rates review.
- On rubbish collection, 87% of the population wanted kerbside recycling, but there were some areas where the new systems would not work. The paper rubbish bags do not decompose quickly in the landfill because of the bulk of material above them, so the new plastic bags degrade at a similar rate to the paper bags. The economy of Rotorua needs to continue to grow, supporting more diversity in the economy, more housing, and a sense of culture and of place.
- **Roading**: It is acknowledged that there is a 'black spot' at Okere Falls around the corner by the Store. Todd McClay has obtained \$1.2M for roading upgrades between town and the airport, which will open up land for subdivision, but \$100M will be needed for a flyover at the Tarawera Road roundabout, so political assistance will be needed.
- It is recognised that there are problems arising from the freedom camping in the Okere Falls area. Steve advised the Association to ask Sandra Goodwin of the Lake Okareka Ratepayers' Association to come and describe how that community runs a camping ground and the community get the income. Albeit Okareka has space for a camping ground and at Okere Falls we are talking about a car park area.

### **Doug Leeder, Chair, Bay of Plenty Regional Council:**

- Doug confirmed that the Eastern Rotoiti Rotoma Sewerage Steering Committee has been working for three years through lengthy processes, and no construction has started yet, but progress has been made. The Government's Water Improvement Fund is not available for waste water.

- Rotoiti Diversion Wall repairs were originally estimated by the University of Waikato to cost \$3M, but an individual from Kawerau who is associated with the pulp and paper industry, a heavily corrosive industry, advised that it will be cheaper to patch the wall as problems occur. A lesson learnt is that with big structures it is important to be sure of specifications, because when these were sought for the steel in the wall, they could not be found. Perhaps the steel is not as good quality as was thought.
- The Regional Council has been asked to remove obstacles such as logs from the Kaituna River, after a drowning earlier in the year. Coroners do not instruct authorities, and the council consider that such action would not necessarily prevent future mishaps. The Kaituna River is Grade 5+ for kayakers, but some will take on the challenge despite advice. Ultimate responsibility rests with individuals.
- Catfish: The distribution in Lake Rotoiti has increased outside Te Weta Bay, but most records are still from that area. The Regional Council wants to allocate funding to continue research and control.
- Land use change: So far \$3M has been spent on proposals, and communication. Next stage is hearings, and appeals are expected. Over the next three years Ministry for the Environment is expected to have more focus on water, including storm water, which will affect councils.
- Lakes Structures: The new system will mean payment every 10 years, at time of structure audit, rather than annual payments. RMA applicants need to apply to land or lakebed owners, but at present the RMA does not prescribe a reply time from these owners, and from some there has been no reply to applicants. Doug agreed that the process is not user-friendly. The Regional Council offer an option to manage the whole process for the applicants, and invoice the third parties.

John Green stated that the 2006 law specifically said that the structures would not be affected in future, but Helen Creagh, Rotorua Catchment Manager for BOPRC, explained that Te Arawa Lakes Trust have special rights in terms of RMA processes, to consider cultural impacts. Steve Chadwick recommended that what was needed was to get the right parties in a room together, and to cluster issues together with the right partners. Fred Stevens stated that the process should be set up as soon as possible.

Don Atkinson, Chair, LWQS, commented that it was difficult for everyone, and suggested that the committee ask legal experts such as Russell McVeagh to develop a proper approach. There was acclamation from the meeting.

Nick Miller recounted his observations of a team of two people in a small pontoon boat inspecting jetties for safety. They entered the bay on the plane, despite the 5 kph speed limit, visited one jetty for perhaps 30 seconds, move on the plane to the next for another brief visit with one person quickly walking along it, then on to the next. The inspection seemed very brief for the cost mentioned.

- John Green reported that the Auditor General requires auditing of all infrastructure projects, where there is a Government subsidy. He has found that for projects such as the Eastern Rotoiti Rotoma Sewerage Scheme, where the local ratepayers may contribute e.g. \$10M, and the Government \$20M, the ratepayers then are required to fund \$30M in depreciation over 30 years. So the local ratepayers are really paying \$40M for a \$30M project. The Auditor will not bend on this issue, and the approach is applied nationally on infrastructure projects. Steve Chadwick agreed that there is a need amongst local councils to find a way to fund infrastructure projects, and it is a major issue. Locally it limits expenditure on some items.
- Jock Scholler, Okawa Bay, made a plea for not just safer, wider roads, but safer, wider, quieter roads. He asked that in 70 kph areas, roads not be re-sealed with coarse chip but with smoother bitumen, to reduce road noise from tyres. He stated that in other areas such as St Mary's Bay in Auckland, bitumen surfaces are used to reduce noise.
- Bob Armstrong thanked Hilary for the good work she does for the Association, saying she deserved bouquets rather than criticism, then asked for a progress report on the proposed launching area at Gisborne Point, and also whether cellphone reception might be able to be improved. Phill Thomass reported that Parks & Reserves of Lakes Council aim to have the launching area operational in the first part of the year but need to carry out a second round of consultation with the community, probably over Auckland Anniversary weekend. There will also be opportunity for comment on the LRCA website.  
Hilary reported that the committee had contacted both Telecom and Vodafone and neither is interested in improving reception in the area. Dave Donaldson reported that 'mobile black spots' are known in the area. Application was made to the MBIE contestable fund for both Lake Tarawera and SH 30 but has not been successful. A wireless repeater has solved most issues for Okareka, but there are still shadow areas.
- Roy Duffy considered that there was not enough resolve at this meeting on lakes structures consent issues.

Motion: He proposed that a subcommittee be formed to investigate consents for lakes structures and charging processes, with advice from lawyers from around the lake, with urgency, as the matter affects everyone's assets. Motion seconded by John Green.

In the following discussion, Bob Armstrong enquired whether the legal advice would require funds. Hilary advised that the Association may be able to have assistance pro bono in initial stages. Roy Duffy commented that the Association had a healthy sum in the bank, so has funds available. The motion was approved by the meeting.

- Mary Stanton suggested that the district has a great asset, the lake, and suggested investigation into whether it would be possible to bottle water to raise funds for the district. It was agreed that we have a great asset that we need to look after.

- On rubbish collection changes, Dave Wilson is concerned that the committee of the Association made multiple attempts to supply information and communicate with RLC over the proposals for changes to rubbish collection in the area, but all assistance was disregarded. RLC's staff did visit the area but the Association's advice was neither passed on nor listened to. Dave Wilson asked if Council were making their decisions alone, why did they bother to try to be seen as consulting?

- Question from the floor: What should be done about bins not collected? Hilary advised to phone the Council, as a note will be created, and supposedly acted upon.

Graham Prior commented that delivering bins to addresses that should not have had them, and then returning to collect them was a waste of Council funds and ratepayers' money.

Steve Chadwick said that there were 28,000 bins to be delivered and not everything went correctly. Tim and Rose who came to the community meetings were well thought of, but Stavros Michael couldn't come to every little community group.

Fraser Wilson, who had spent hours and days at local meetings said that there was no excuse where on two occasions their advice was ignored. He asked what went wrong with the communication process?

Hilary said she will send to Steve Chadwick a list of all communications taken with staff.

- Jenny Peters said that the people collecting the rubbish were fantastic, but is concerned with safety at the Gisborne Point Reserve. It is multi-use and it is worrying that children play on the reserve but there are also cars, boat launching, and camping occurring. Phill Thomass will add the matter to the consultation at Gisborne Point at Anniversary Weekend. Steve Chadwick explained that such reserves are not designated for specific activities but were set aside as public space.

- David Lane said he considers the new recycling bottle bins are inadequate – not big enough for a household at this time of the year. Steve Chadwick suggested that extras be put in the recycling bins at the transfer station.

- John Green reported that he had heard that an application is being prepared for a liquor licence at the Manipirua Springs Hot Pools. And he considers that LRCA should be against that.

Tim Manning, Director of the Manipirua Hot Pools stated that one year ago he obtained a lease renewal extending tenancy for another 28 years. He has a Resource Consent application for another jetty. One third of the Pools income is now from people from cruise ships at Tauranga, coming to the pools by kayak. In response to a changing market he has a café open some days, and people would like to buy a beer when at the pools. There would be no liquor or glass near the pools, just in the picnic area. Because of increase in custom, he now employs more than one person. He told how he had organised the clean-up of the pools after the big pohutukawa fell over, and the pools have been open every day since. He wants to maintain a responsible, family-friendly atmosphere at the pools.

Hilary thanked John Green for providing the information and particularly for all the work he had done for the district, and wished him well in his forthcoming move away.

- Hilary advised that Michael Gill had reported reflux around the Wall. This had prompted Sherryn Owen of BOPRC to fully investigate the data correlated since the application of the current resource consent and she found that parts of the gates have not been operated as originally intended. Processes are being rectified.

- Selwyn Rikiti, chair of Rotoiti Rugby League Club, told the meeting that the club is now 40 years old, and is changing its name to Pikiako Lakeside Sports & Community Incorporation. He invited people to join the club and use it as a local social centre.

On the issue of road safety, he suggested that if the speed limit in the present 70 kph zones was changed to 50 kph, the problems would be avoided.

- Don Atkinson, Chair, LWQS, reminded the meeting that the LWQS AGM is on Monday 30 January and support would be appreciated.
- Derek Morehu spoke about the proposed liquor licence for the Hot Pools, and said he will take up the issue with the elders. He objects to liquor at the pools. He also queried current lake level management, remembering that Bert Kingi, who lived over the road from the Gates, used to adjust the levels, but now it is controlled from Whakatane.

Hilary thanked Jan Wilkins for organising the kitchen catering for this meeting.

The meeting closed at 12.23 pm.