

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

Held on January 2nd 2014, 10am, at the Pikiaro Rugby League Club

Present

Jim Stanton, Mary Stanton, Nick Miller, Elizabeth Miller, Phill Thomass (Life Members)
Steve Chadwick (Mayor of Rotorua)
Todd McClay (MP for Rotorua)
Dave Donaldson, Rob Kent, Charles Sturt (RDC Councillors)
Lyll Thurston (BOPRC Councillors),
Hera Smith (Te Arawa Lakes Trust)
Geoff Palmer, Leo Meharry (Rotorua Lakes Community Board)
John Green, QSM (LakesWater Quality Society)
Hilary Prior (Chair), Guy Nelson, Gerald Plested, Warren Webber, David Wilson, Fraser Wilson (LRCA Committee Members)
Approximately 140 people in total were present at the meeting

Apologies

Robin & Anne Sinclair, Saxon Crawford, Derek Nolan, Stu Luke, John & Sue La Roche, Keith & Karen Larkin, Marny Bradley, Peter & Sue Carr-Smith, Brentleigh Bond, Diane Stewart

Welcome

Tai Eru Morehu provided a Karakia for the meeting.
Hilary Prior opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Minutes of 2013 Annual Meeting

John Green proposed that the Minutes be accepted, seconded by Don Atkinson. Accepted.

Matters Arising

Bob Armstrong acknowledged the value of the newsletter to the community in keeping people up to date with developments in matters noted at last year's AGM, but would like to have some additional feedback on items 2 and 4 of general business in the minutes - the Rotorua District Draft Plan and RDC's draft policy around lake structures. Hilary said that both of these points will be addressed by Steve Chadwick in her presentation.

Chairperson's Report

Hilary's report has been contained in the newsletters over the past year.

Financial Report

Gerald Plested spoke to the financial report, which was circulated to members during the meeting, and moved that it be accepted as presented. This was seconded by Hilary, and accepted by the

meeting. The accounts have been audited by Graham Prior for this year, and Gerald proposed that he be renewed as auditor for the coming year. Seconded by Hilary, and accepted by the meeting.

Hilary thanked Graham Prior and his daughter, Stephanie Prior for their work on the audit. She also noted that Gerald is leaving both the district and the committee and moving to Kerikeri and wished to record her thanks for all his dedicated work on behalf of LRCA.

Election of the Chair

Jim Stanton took over as chair of the meeting whilst Hilary Prior stood down. Jim called for nominations for the position of Chairperson. John Green nominated Hilary, seconded by Elizabeth Miller. Jim noted that Hilary has been Chair for the last five years and has put in a great deal of effort over this time, and is looking for a successor, so if anyone is prepared to take over that role they should put their name forward. Nominations closed and Hilary voted in by acclamation. Hilary resumed the Chair.

Election of Committee

The following committee members agreed to stand again: Jim Stanton, Nick Miller, Guy Nelson, Phill Thomass, David Wilson, Fraser Wilson, and also Claire Miller who has previously acted as Committee Secretary without being elected. They were proposed *en bloc* by Hilary and seconded by Mary Stanton. These members were approved by the meeting. Three further proposals had been put to the meeting – John Bowen, Sherilyn Coney and Don Stotter have agreed to be co-opted. This was seconded by Bob Armstrong and approved. In addition, Peter Burton has agreed to stand as Treasurer. Proposed by Hilary, seconded by Gerald.

Presentations:

Her Worship the Mayor Steve Chadwick

Steve introduced the Community Board members and new RDC Councillors to the meeting. The Council have decided their new structure and have done strategic planning to bring about change. The Councillors have developed seven goals:

- building a resilient community
- have loved homes
- develop outstanding places to play
- rebuild the heart of the city
- work in partnership with the business community
- leaner/smarter council working in partnership with community to run some services
- unspoilt environment

Rotorua needs a strategic plan and work to keep the lakes and forests clean and untouched, including management of waste. Steve left comment/feedback cards at the front of the hall for members to send in with any ideas they may have. She is also developing a new partnership model with iwi, having recognised some of the mistakes that have been made in the past.

Steve gave feedback on the concerns around lakeside structures in the District Plan. Gaining resource consents isn't an easy process due to overlapping agencies. Te Arawa Lakes Trust owns the lakebed, BOPRC manage environmental effects and the water column, and RDC manages activities on the water, and LINZ also has a say. RDC transferred management of all lakeside structures to BOPRC, so it is now a one-step process. Te Arawa Lakes Trust and LINZ have a joint approval process, administered by the Lakes Trust. Structures are a discretionary activity in the District Plan, but RDC are looking to move to a more permissive rules approach to extensions and current structures. They

are aiming for a new framework on lakes structures in the Plan by 2016-2017. RDC, BOPRC & Te Arawa are working to achieve clarity around structures so people can be certain as to what is required when lodging a consent, including if the structure is in an area of the lake where more detailed work will be required around cultural/ environmental issues (significant natural areas are managed by both BOPRC and RDC). By the end of January BOPRC, RDC and Te Arawa Lakes Trust will get together to discuss changes needed to the policy and the proposed changes will be got out to the community by March. Steve acknowledged that in the current District Plan the process is unclear. Lyall Thurston acknowledged that it is a complex issue and organisations need to work collaboratively together. Hera Smith also had hand-outs available for the meeting. Steve commented on the need for advocacy for Lake Rotorua, as Rotorua city residents do not pay much attention to their impact on the lake. Steve acknowledged the work of the LWQS on raising awareness among the Council.

There was some discussion about a regional Unitary Authority but at the moment RDC is monitoring developments in other parts of the country. Tauranga and Western Bay are keen on this idea and say it will give economy of scale. RDC wants to work collaboratively with other councils rather than be amalgamated with another. Possible partners are more likely to be Taupo and South Waikato rather than BOPRC, due to commonalities of freshwater and geothermal resources.

RDC suggested that LWQS have a joint meeting with RDC and Te Arawa to bring up decisions on issues around the lakes.

Comments:

Patrick Willock from Lake Rotoiti – acknowledges the visit of the Mayor to the meeting and says his family feels that Rotoiti is part of them due to their long association with the lake. Current development around Lake Rotoiti is very responsible and neat and tidy, and has been made without the intervention of planners. An emphasis on enabling rather than restricting work with consents would be appreciated. The main issue is the two restrictive lines that have been arbitrarily drawn in the District Plan – the 50-year flood-line and the line denoting ‘outstanding natural heritage’ that do not have much relation to reality or ‘expert witness’ evidence. It seems unrealistic to apply the descriptor ‘natural heritage’ to a modified environment such as Rotoiti. LRCA would rather work with RDC on issues than fighting and wasting ratepayers’ money, and looks forward to dealing with a changed regime. Hilary noted that Marcus Wilkins has volunteered his boat to take all councillors and planners on a tour of the lake as residents see it. Steve said that ‘outstanding natural landscape’ does not need to be prohibitive but could be enabling as a descriptor, or it can be both. Patrick said that once Rotoiti is defined as ‘outstanding natural heritage’ it could be difficult to move away from that descriptor and all its restrictions again.

Steve commented that RDC will be reopening the geothermal areas in town for use for heating and spa pools.

Bob Smith from Lake Rotoiti: think not only about the look but also the use of the lake – for example the Wooden Boats Association and community usage. Planners need to consider changing usage and that one size does not fit all. Currently they do not consider recreational use. Steve said that planners are employed by RDC and take decisions from elected officials. Charles Sturt confirmed that this is a total change from the previous rules-driven Plan where councillors have taken what planners say as gospel, and now councillors need to take on board what residents say and stand up and drive the decisions. Dave Donaldson said that most councillors have read all the submissions made on the plan. Decisions are going to be made early in the New Year and the hearings panel are working to a tight timeframe. The need to strike a balance between ‘outstanding natural landscapes’

and recreational use was raised by Paul East and has come through to the hearings panel loud and clear.

Don Atkinson from Okawa Bay: a lot of discussion has been around the use of existing jetties but RDC also need to look at what new structures will be allowed around the lakes in new developments, and not just existing use but changes in use. RDC are trying to restrict the number of jetties without recognising the huge advantage they give to the community and to new residential properties. Steve: – this was raised through LWQS when talking about transferrable development rights and the potential for an ecological development subdivision. RDC are looking at growth and retirement of debt as major priorities so trying to get growth of the community and eco-subdivisions are a possibility.

Nick Miller from Lake Rotoiti: planning is no longer about actual community planning but about rules and restrictions. Also concerns about 'natural characteristics' versus manmade environment – much of the current 'natural' environment around Rotoiti is fairly recent and is the result of land usage changes.

Todd McClay said that it is very helpful to be able to work collaboratively across groups and across councils. It is easy to be critical but great when people are focussing on what they can do. The clarity of Lake Rotorua is better than for a long time even if the quality still has a lot of progress to make.

General Business

Eastern Rotoiti/Rotoehu/Rotoma Sewerage

Bob Armstrong asked about the Eastern Rotoiti/Rotoehu/Rotoma sewerage situation. Hilary said that a meeting was held on the 2nd December, chaired by Ian McLean and it has gone right back to the beginning. There was now a group drawn from communities, iwi, councils, and planners. Another meeting will be chaired by Ian, and then a chair will be chosen from among the representatives. Then the group will start from a totally blank slate and look at all the different options and problems and find a way forward to get a sewerage scheme set up. It is very important that one is set up, and also that it is not too expensive for the residents. The funding which was available beforehand has been renewed.

Michael MacCarthy from Gisborne Point commented that the lack of communication around this issue is shocking - residents have not heard anything for months.

Lake Structures

Hera Smith (Te Arawa Lakes Trust) gave an update on the policy situation around lakes structures. Hera processes consents for new lake structures and modifications to existing structures – changing the footprint, where landowner consent is required for that. Existing lake structures are managed by RDC, BOPRC, and Te Arawa Lakes Trust working together with residents' input. An independent auditor was engaged to assess what is out there – structure owners with both license and consent, or one or the other, or neither. They are looking at how to identify structures that need to be removed when they cannot find the owners or do not have the correct paperwork or the owners want to demolish the structure. Recreational usage is a critical value to both owners and residents. Also structures of research or conservational natures need to be managed. Te Arawa Lakes Trust is working with the statutory authorities according to legislative requirements.

Mary Stanton thanked the Te Arawa Lakes Trust and all else concerned for opening the boat ramp at Okawa Bay for the general public. People living on the Channel lost their jetties due to the narrowness of the redirected channel and the need for room for boats passing by. Therefore it is

appropriate for them to be granted consent to use the ramp at Okawa Bay and everyone to be working together to enjoy the lake.

Hera said that it is good to have feedback about expectations about what is going to happen in the future. Te Arawa Lakes Trust have made a commitment to hold engagement hui with the community and see how they view lake structures. There will also be focussed conversations on places where structures are quite dense and what that would look like in the future. Owners have to re-apply for consents rather than roll-over. Te Arawa Lakes Trust and RDC and BOPRC are still promoting sharing of structures, and also health and safety with regard to the integrity of the structure.

David Hay from Hauparu Bay asked what work Te Arawa Lakes Trust have done with RDC about public car- and trailer- parking at public structures and boat ramps. Have they considered what would happen if residents do not regain consents for their own ramps and have to use public ramps – where would residents put all those cars and trailers if they have to use the public ramps and car parks. Steve said that RDC does not have a strategic plan for use of the lakes but need to develop it. Dave Donaldson said that the previous Community Board did a very comprehensive paper on the recreational use of the lakes and that document needs to be revived by the current Board.

Tim Manning from Otaramarae said that through his connection to the Hot Pools he knows that they are selling more season tickets than any other year in the history of his connection, and overall the use of Lake Rotoiti is increasing. If the intention of the new consent and review process is that overall people lose their jetties then there will be much more pressure on public ramps and structures. There are not enough public ramps at the moment, let alone for the future. Hera said that nobody has used the word 'lose' or 'take away' - but that the situation needs to be reassessed, as historically people may have built jetties without correct paperwork, and health and safety also needs to be considered.

Don Atkinson suggested that members would be reassured if they got a clear statement that no currently used jetties are going to be taken in away in the process of the reviews that are going on. Steve said that she was not prepared to say that. Some may be quite illegal or dangerous structures. Review of current needs is necessary and maybe a need for more infrastructure might be identified. Steve was asked if she can give assurance that a licensed jetty or boatramp for which the owner is paying the fees on won't be taken away? She said no, it still needs a review. Hera commented that current resource consents also have end dates and would have to be reviewed at that date anyway. Steve was asked whether jetties that existed prior to the RMA are governed by the RMA? The answer is yes.

Bob Armstrong said that the minutes of last year's AGM clearly show that the Draft Plan stated that jetties should be 'no less than 200m apart'. In the current discussion there was no mention that this restriction will be done away with. Steve said that she had not read last year's minutes and will take that point into consideration when the hearing panel gets together.

Sheralyn Coney from Gisborne Point said that she lives next door to the public boat ramp there and there is not enough room now. She has been asking RDC for an upgrade to the nominal second boat ramp for 10 years and no action has been taken. The water is shallower there but it might still be available for smaller boats.

Malcolm Macdonald said that he got a consent for his jetty in 2002, and had to reapply in 2012. The documents have got as far as Te Arawa Lakes Trust but BOPRC are chasing them and there has been no progress. Also he did not get a 10-year consent this time – it was only renewed until either

2017/2019. Hera said that there has been an allowance for a moratorium and review 10 years after the Settlement, and therefore most consents would only go as far as 2016, but some do go till 2020.

Dave Wilson of Okawa Bay said that when you apply for a structure consent from Te Arawa Lakes Trust you receive a document that requires you to say you will pay any lease charges that are set by Te Arawa Lakes Trust. He asked whether there is a schedule of charges available for consultation. Hera said that the process includes having a site visit and assessing how likely a structure in that site is to be viable. The information also goes to LINZ for the Crown Stratum management. The Rotorua Lakes are categorised into three groups depending on usage, and those with a higher usage will attract higher fees. The fee structure was commissioned by LINZ and among other things compares marina charges from Taupo and Auckland marinas. Structures up to 15m long are calculated and charged per metre. There is a comprehensive valuation table – Hera will ask LINZ what is appropriate to be shared with the public and then pass the results to Hilary and John Green for public release. Each lease document is a tripartite document so half the fees go to the Crown and half to Te Arawa Lakes Trust. Greta Holme said that the charge for her 15m jetty in Hauparu Bay is \$1400 per annum. It was commented that members of the public also use private jetties, as is allowed for in the lease documents, and do not have to pay to use them.

Richard Stevens from Hauparu Bay said that discretionary renewal of jetties every few years is very distressing to residents and the jetty access is a very important part of their enjoyment of their property. Hera said that people have come to the Te Arawa Lakes Trust and commented on their jetty's importance to them and that may be taken into consideration in the decision-making process. John Green said that this is a unique lake district and there should be some unique policies coming through to reflect that. This is not a nation-wide LINZ policy, so RDC, BOPRC, Te Arawa Lakes Trust and the community should be able work together to get something that works for everyone. Steve said that RDC may invite a government representative in on the tripartite hearing meetings to get clarity around the government position as well.

Tom Walters commented that he was happy to see politicians at the meeting as well as the community. This is a lakes-oriented society, but organizations keep developing rules that prohibit use of the lake. He has association with Acacia Bay in Taupo. The community there have built a trailer park at Acacia Bay rather than blocking the streets as used to happen, and it is controlled by the Council, while providing for the people that want to use it. Lake Okataina also currently has the opportunity to build a structure which will help prevent people blocking the road with their cars and boat trailers.

Nick Miller suggested there are such things as floating jetties which may count as boats instead and not need to be licensed or consented at all.

Miles Nathan from Gisborne Point said that he had a concern with the Draft Plan categorising the whole of Lake Rotoiti as an iconic natural landscape as such a blanket categorisation is inaccurate. He suggested that a 200m exemption zone be made around lakeside settlements and that jetties should not be discretionary at the sole decision of RDC, as this change would reduce a lot of uncertainty.

West Rotoiti Volunteer Fire Brigade

Hilary said that the West Rotoiti Volunteer Fire Brigade had been donated a boat by a member of the community, and are now in the process of housing it. They have approached various local organizations to gain funding for a building, and have a total cost quote of \$22,000. To date they have a guaranteed \$17,000 donated, some additional funding applications underway, but a known

shortfall of \$2000. Hilary is aware that the current LRCA funds are primarily due to donations given in awareness of the situation of the Okere Gates. She would like to donate \$2000 from LRCA funds, and asks that if anyone at the meeting have any issues with this use of the money that they state it at the time. There were no objections raised. Hilary proposed that the donation of \$2000 be given, and was seconded by Warren Wenner All approved.

Memorial Sailing Regatta

John Glenie from Hauparu Bay said they have traditionally run a memorial sailing regatta at this time of year. This year the regatta will run on Saturday 4th January from Hauparu Bay. It is run on a handicap basis, generally handicapping the sailor rather than the vessel. There is a prize for both juniors and senior entrants. Chris Laird and John Glenie both have numbers in the phone book to contact if people are interested in entering.

General Matters

Ann Green reinforced the message that Hilary is looking for a replacement in her position as Chair and that someone else would be very welcome to step up.

Tai Eru Morehu asked RDC to discourage the use of the word "Rotovegas" as a substitute for Rotorua. Steve said that RDC cannot take action against such marketing but do not support the usage at all.

Phill Thomass asked the meeting to express their thanks to the Castlecorp rubbish collectors for their work, especially as they are incredibly busy at this time of the year, collecting rubbish daily from public areas, and are a great advertisement for RDC.

Nick Miller said that referring back to the 'natural landscape' designation of the lake proposed in the Plan, large yellow power-line hazard signs have recently appeared at several sites on the lake, with no authorizing body or obvious reason for installation given. RDC said that these signs are probably BOPRC's responsibility. Lyall Thurston said that they will be gone by tonight!

Meeting closed at 12.10pm