



Lake Rotoiti Community Association Incorporated



Nga mihi o te wa - Season's Greetings

Once again Christmas holidays and summer are nearly upon us. Rotoiti is looking beautiful, and having had to spend most of the year away from the lake, I am reminded just how lucky those of us fortunate to be permanent residents are, and also how lucky we all are to have access to this wonderful playground in our weekends and holidays.

It has been another busy year around the lake, and this year saw the local body elections at which Karen Hunt was newly elected in North Ward, along with Charles Sturt and Bob Martin. We also now have our Community Board, and we couldn't have had a better result – all our candidates supported by the Combined Lakes Ratepayers Association were elected unopposed.

The Diversion Wall is well underway and is ahead of schedule, it is now expected to be finished early in the new year. As the photo above shows, there is also a large hazard in the middle of the Okere Arm! The construction of the wall means that the Delta boat ramp is closed to the public, and the speed lane down the middle of the Okere Arm has been removed, so please obey the new speed limit. With the Delta boat ramp closed the nearest ramp is at Otaramarae, with the only other boat ramps on Rotoiti being at Gisborne Point and Hinehopu in Tamatea St. There is a ski lane at the start of Tamatea St.

After four years as Chair, Sally Brock is stepping down this year. Sally has worked tirelessly for the Rotoiti community

and we will miss her. Sally has championed the Lake and the need to address water quality issues, on occasion having to present unpleasant truths to Councillors who at times have been unwilling to listen. She must have a stack of Council documents as tall as herself that she has read through and commented on in numerous meetings. She has at the same time devoted herself to the Ecological Care Groups and has fought hard to see the Lake's foreshores cleaned up and beautified. As well as her energies given to LRCA, Sally is also involved in many other wider community activities and groups. On behalf of the committee and the community I would like to give Sally our heartfelt thanks and to wish her and her husband Nigel all the best.

At the same time as Sally steps down, Brentleigh Bond's election to the community Board and the demands of that position means that while he will not be stepping down, he will have to play a lesser role in LRCA. Like Sally, Brentleigh has given a huge amount of time and effort, not only to LRCA, but also the wider Lakes Communities through a range of groups and organisations. We thank Brentleigh for all his efforts, and wish him well in his new role as Chair of the Lakes Community Board.

As shown by the recent Didymo scare in the Central North Island, Didymo is an ever-present threat. If it got into our lakes it would be a disaster, so, please remember to take precautions as you fish different areas. Boat users – including kayakers – need to take care to wash down their craft to prevent spread of not only Didymo but also lake weeds and pests.

We look forward to seeing you all at our AGM on the 6th January, in the meantime,

Meri Kirihimete - Merry Christmas

– Phill Thomass

With the construction of the Diversion Wall

THE DELTA BOAT RAMP IS CLOSED

There are ramps at Otaramarae, Gisborne Pt and Hinehopu.

Information pamphlets are available at local stores.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT December 2007

Tena koutau Katoa

Nga mihi o te wa-Mau Mai haere mai ki tenai to tatau panui whakamutunga mo tenai tau.

Season's greetings, and welcome to the Christmas Newsletter.

It has certainly been an exciting few months watching the progress in construction of the Ohau Channel Diversion Wall. What a feat of engineering!

It is hoped that the wall will be finished in February 2008 - well ahead of schedule!

I believe this single action will see our Lake recover within the expected time frame of 5 to 10 years. Environment Bay of Plenty is committed to monitoring the effects of the wall during that period, to assess whether any further actions may be required to further improve Lake Rotoiti's water quality. I am positive though, that we who love the Lake will see for ourselves the huge effect this structure will have on the Lake's water quality.

Lake water quality issues and Community Board representation have been a major focus of your Committee this year. We have made our usual written and verbal submissions to the District and Regional Councils Annual Plans, and have met regularly with Rotorua District Council, ENVBOP and MP Steve Chadwick to bring the issues of most concern to our Community to the ears of those who matter. We have represented the interests of the Lake in the Lakes Rotorua/Rotoiti Action Plan Working Party and have met with Environment Bay of Plenty Staff and Council on many occasions to discuss water quality. We have seen the proposed Lakes Rotorua Rotoiti Action Plan evolve to a document that is currently undergoing the submission process. The Action Plan is about guiding actions that will reduce nutrient inflow to the Lakes. It has identified what needs to be done in terms of nutrient reduction to improve the water quality of both Lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti and although it is not a set of rules as such, it will guide rules in the future with regards to land use management and land use change. As a Community we need to commit to supporting the hard decisions necessary to save the Lakes. We have for too long taken for granted the valuable asset these Lakes are and have assumed that someone else is looking after them. We were and are wrong. No one is going to champion the Lakes except those who have a vested interest to do so - whether that interest is driven by a fear or reality of financial loss in terms of loss of property or recreation value, or a determination in putting right the wrongs of the past in terms of environmental protection, it really doesn't matter. The fact is that we all have to care enough to make the hard choices necessary to save the Lakes - and that means at the end of the day it is going to cost! The restoration program, which includes sewerage reticulation, land use nutrient target reductions and some "in Lake" treatment, is estimated to cost about 200 million dollars, which is huge money and simply not able to be met by the Community alone, especially on top of the costs of the proposed sewerage schemes. We are still waiting for the Government to commit financially to the Lakes Restoration costs, and despite the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding neither the District nor Regional Council has had an indication as to how much if anything the Government is likely to commit. Let us hope that our Lakes Strategy Group which consists of RDC, ENVBOP and Te Arawa Maori Trust Board can convince

Government that the Rotorua Lakes are worth investing in - after all they are merely a casualty of successive Governments' policies that encouraged intensification of land without considering the cost to the environment.

Rotorua now has its first Community Board - the "Rotorua Lakes Community Board" which was elected at the recent Local Government Elections in October. Our Community Board consists of representatives from Lakes Rotoiti, Okareka, Rotoma/Rotoehu and Tarawera. We are looking forward to working with the Community Board to promote effective representation for our Ratepayers and Residents. One of the major issues facing the Community Board is the Rating review which will impact all Residents and Ratepayers. We are fortunate to have Jean Paul Gaston, who is Director of Corporate Services RDC, attending our AGM in January. This will be your opportunity to make your voice and concerns heard regarding this contentious issue, so if you have a concern about rates and the amount you pay it will pay to be there!

The proposed sewerage reticulation for the communities of Okere Falls, Otaramarae, and Whangamarino is still waiting for a financial commitment from Government for funding under the Ministry of Health subsidy scheme. We can only hope that Government commit additional financial resources to what has become an over subscribed funding source. The cost to our Community for these schemes is simply not affordable without subsidy.

The Lakes Recreation Strategy has been developed to guide the way our Lakes are managed in the future with regards to recreational opportunities and restrictions. The LRCA together with the other Ratepayer Associations and Lake User groups have a place and a voice on the Lakes Recreation Forum which meets about twice a year to discuss problems, and develop new strategies. I think it is vitally important that those who live and use the Lakes have a say in how they are managed in the future, especially since changes in recreational rules impact those that live by the Lake the most!

The Transfer Station for the eastern end of the Lake is currently undergoing the Resource Consent process. Environment Bay of Plenty required Council to assess and include any negative environmental impacts in their application, which accounts for the delay in application being granted. ENVBOP have decided that they will seek Notified Consent which means that the application will be advertised and call for comments/submissions on the application. This should happen shortly.

The Lake Rotoiti Charitable Trust has been established just over 1 year now. Its aims include promoting recreational and community based activities in and around the lake for the benefit of the residents and general public, fostering community spirit and preserving the special character of Lake Rotoiti. The trustees are the Lake Rotoiti Scenic Reserves Board, Lake Rotoiti Community Association, The Lake Rotoiti Classic and Wooden Boat Association and Bay of Plenty Yacht Squadron. The trust in addition to receiving gifts and donations will make funds available for charitable projects in and around the Lake. If you are interested in making a donation or applying for funds for a project, visit www.rotioitcharitabletrust.co.nz

Our AGM is on the 6th of January at 10 am, to be held in the Pikiaro Rugby League rooms in Takinga Street Mourea. We look forward to seeing you there.

On a serious note, the LRCA is in desperate need of new Committee members. It is my intention to stand down from the Committee this year and I know that other committee members have indicated that they may either stand down or reduce their input on issues because of other commitments in their lives. The Association can only continue to function adequately in what I believe to be a very important role if we have support - and that means serving on the Committee!

If you feel you have the time and dedication to serve on the LRCA Committee next year please contact either myself or Brentleigh Bond.

On a personal note, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all those who have supported me in my role as Chairperson over the last 4 years. I would especially like to mention and thank my husband Nigel Brock, former Secretary Richard Wilson and Treasurer Brentleigh Bond, without whose support I simply could not have done the job!

I wish you all a happy and safe festive season.

Ko te tumanako kia koa kia pai to koutou hararei mo te kirihemete

No reira, tena kouou, tena koutou, tena tatou katoa.

Sally Brock

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LAKE ROTOITI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

To be held at

PIKIAO RUGBY LEAGUE CLUBROOMS TAKINGA ST, MOUREA

11am SUNDAY THE 6TH OF JANUARY 2008

GUEST SPEAKER

Jean Paul Gaston, Director of Corporate Services, Rotorua District Council

NAU MAI HAERE MAI- ALL WELCOME

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

Your Association Needs You!

With the Local Body Elections now over, we would like to congratulate all successful candidates, Kevin Winters as Mayor and our North Ward Councillors Charles Sturt, Bob Martin and Karen Hunt. We especially congratulate the first Community Board for Rotorua, namely the Rotorua Lakes Community Board represented by Brentleigh Bond (Rotorua), Neil Callaghan (Tarawera), Phillip Karauna (Rotorua / Rotoma) and Geoff Palmer (Okareka).

The Community Board offers huge potential benefit to us, but this is dependent both on a good working relationship between the Community Board and the Council, and effective communication between the Community Board and local residents. This means that while LRCA's role may change in some areas, it is still important to maintain a strong Association representing and promoting Lake Rotoiti's needs. While the Community Board is there to listen to the whole Lakes community, LRCA's role is to actively promote issues affecting Lake Rotoiti.

With this in mind the LRCA Committee asks all members to consider putting themselves forward for election to the Committee for 2008.

Brentleigh Bond's election to the Community Board means his role within LRCA will be greatly reduced, and after many years championing Lake Rotoiti our Chair, Sally Brock is resigning from the Committee.

While they leave us heartened by the start of action in turning around the degradation of lake water quality, we need new people to help continue all the work that LRCA is involved in as well as to tackle all those new issues no doubt just around the corner!

Committee membership need not be overly onerous, we meet once a month, with meeting dates alternating between

weekends and week days to allow non-Rotoiti residents to be able to attend. There are also council (both RDC and EnvBOP) meetings on occasion. The main requirement of a committee member is a commitment to our wonderful lake and its environs.

LRCA is involved in a wide range of local issues, from fighting for rating fairness, supporting the local Care Groups, lobbying for improved facilities around and on the lake, providing a community voice on sewerage, roading and DOC land use as well as what goes on on the lake itself. LRCA also has close links to the other Lakes associations and community based organisations.

The need for, and benefits, of having a strong Community Association is shown not only in the ongoing fight to save our lake's water quality – and it is only through the tireless efforts of LRCA's previous incarnation Lake Rotoiti Ratepayers Association and other local community groups that local, regional and national government have been forced to act – but in other more recent actions or lack of action by Council. Until LRCA demanded inclusion, when the local Recreation Plans were being developed for Lake Rotoiti it wasn't even seen as necessary to include any representation of local residents and land owners!

To ensure local concerns continue to be heard we need a strong LRCA. To keep LRCA strong we need your participation.

If you are interested in standing for the committee, or would like to know more about what is required, please contact Sally Brock, ph 3624764, email te-pohutukawa@paradise.net.nz

Ecological Care Group Report

Our Lake and its environment are unique and truly beautiful. Those of us who live here, whether it be on full or part time basis, have a part to play in ensuring that our environment is protected for the use of those generations to come.

We as Lake Residents can help the environment by making a few simple efforts. Looking after our septic tanks is by far the most important. As you are aware the proposed sewerage reticulation for our communities is delayed because of lack of funding commitment from government and that means we must make sure that our septic tanks are inspected and cleaned if necessary. If you suspect that your septic tank needs cleaning or you can't remember if and when it was done last, get it done for the sake of our Lake.

If you need to use fertilizer in your garden use organic or slow release sparingly and try and use eco-friendly detergents (available from the Okere Falls Store).

Don't allow detergents and pollutants to drain from your property via storm water to the Lake. Look after the edges of your property and plant a buffer zone of plants at the edge of the Lake.

And remember to clean your boat before launching in other Lakes and before launching back in to Lake Rotoiti.

The Lake Rotoiti Care Group has had a number of organized working bees and plantings that have been very well supported by the Community. The biggest planting working bee we have ever undertaken occurred in August with the planting of over 1500 plants at the Lake Edge on the main road (SH 33) opposite Fred Whata's property. We had a great turn out, which meant that the planting was basically over in about 2 hours. We finished the morning with a sausage sizzle followed by coffee and cake at the store. Great fun!

The Te Akau Road planting site is now well established and growing well. Some new plants have replaced those which have either died or failed to thrive, and a general

tidy up in the form of weed control has seen the entrance to the road look spectacular.

We have had a number of "beach clean ups" around the Lake, which involves mainly weed control at beaches that were once grazed by cattle and are now sprouting gorse and blackberry furiously. I am sure that when you are next out enjoying a picnic at one of the wonderful beaches around our beautiful Lake you will notice the difference.

The Te Arero Bay project is STILL waiting for the Landowner to sign on the dotted line!

Once this is done we will see a major effort in riparian protection and planting occur at this very ecologically important area.

The Okawa Bay plantings are still looking great, thanks to the efforts of a few dedicated locals.

The work that the group undertakes would not be possible without the huge support from Environment Bay of Plenty and Rotorua District Council, in particular the "ground staff" that give up their personal time to assist in plantings and working bees. We THANK you!

Keep an eye on the Okere Falls Store Notice Board and look out for signs on the road side for the dates and times of future working bees and plantings. The Store is always a great supporter of these events and rewards us all with a cake and a good cup of coffee!

The Care Group has a very healthy list of people who are willing to help on the numerous projects around the Lake, but we could always do with more and are always thrilled to see new people along! Being involved in these projects is very worthwhile in terms of our own personal satisfaction and for our beautiful Lake and its environment as well.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank EVERYONE who has helped on the Care Group projects to date, without your help none of these projects would be possible!

Sally Brock



Lake Rotoiti Charitable Trust

We write to introduce the Lake Rotoiti Charitable Trust to you, with some of the background that led to its creation, and to advise how the Trust can be of benefit to both yourself and your family.

History

Nearly 50 years ago, a group of progressive Lake Rotoiti residents formed a Society which in turn entered into a lease arrangement with the landowners of the Manupirua Springs, or the Rotoiti Hot Pools as it is more generally known today. During the term of this lease, volunteers spent a considerable amount of time, effort, and residents' money received from subscriptions and donations, to convert the hot spring flowing into the lake at Paehinahina into the facility as it stands today. Concrete pools were constructed, changing rooms and a caretaker's house were built, an eco-toilet was installed, mud slides were cleared, and the grounds landscaped with concrete paths, lawns and planting.

In short, the hot spring was turned from what was initially a mud hole on the shore of Lake Rotoiti into a facility which is unique with its boat only access, and the major residential and tourist attraction that it is today. We take this opportunity to thank those many residents and interested people who gave generously of both their time and money to make this happen.

However, nothing stays the same forever and, following the expiration of the lease in 1999 and with the landowners entering into renewed leases with commercial interests, the Manupirua Springs Society was left with some money in the bank but with no pools to operate and accordingly no particular reason to exist. Over the past seven years, it has become apparent that the present lessee, who holds a lease for a further 15 years, is clearly there for the long haul and is operating and maintaining the hot pools in a way that is satisfactory to most users.

The committee of the Manupirua Springs Inc. came to the conclusion that, if the Society was to be wound up, its surplus funds should be retained and used for the benefit of all users of Lake Rotoiti. (By law any surplus funds had to be distributed to a charitable or similar organisation). Finally, at the AGM of the Manupirua Springs Inc. held in January 2007, the members resolved to wind up the Society and transfer the surplus funds to the Lake Rotoiti Charitable Trust, a charitable organisation that had been set up and incorporated for the purpose.

Lake Rotoiti Charitable Trust

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

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

The Lake Rotoiti Charitable Trust was formed in 2006, and has been created by and for the people of the Lake Rotoiti community. The Trust has been set up to provide a simple and effective way for individuals and families to make a gift to the local community. Gifts can be made either as a donation, or as a gift to support an area, a special project

or purpose, or a group that you are passionate about, and to ensure these gifts will achieve maximum benefit into the future.

The present Trustees include the elected committee members of the old Manupirua Springs Inc. together with others appointed by the "Lake Rotoiti Scenic Reserve Board", the "Lake Rotoiti Community Association Inc.", the "The Bay of Plenty Trailer Yacht Squadron Inc.", and the "Lake Rotoiti Classic & Wooden Boat Association Inc.". These Lake Rotoiti based organisations will appoint future Trustees for a term not exceeding 4 years with Trustees being ineligible to serve more than 2 terms continuously.

They are:

Hugh Marston (Chair); h.j.marston@xtra.co.nz; (0274) 940 131

Greeta Hulme (Secretary); (07) 349 4254;

Brentleigh Bond (Treasurer); grahamb@clear.net.nz; (07) 362 4700

Sally Brock; te-pohutukawa@paradise.net.nz; (07) 362 4764

Bruce Holt; bjholt@clear.net.nz; (07) 348 7305;

Ross Mabey; mabey@clear.net.nz; (07) 544 4322

Paul Nichols; nicpeter@gmail.com; (07) 543 0731;

Robin Sinclair; robinph@xtra.co.nz; (07) 362 4643

Ian Summersby; trophy@xtra.co.nz; (06) 867 5521

We invite you to make a difference to Lake Rotoiti and its community by supporting the work of the Trust. You can do this by registering your interest as a 'Friend of the Lake' and/or by making a donation to assist in the work of the Trust.

If you would like to know more, make a donation, apply for funding, or to discuss the work of the Trust, please visit our web-site or contact us direct.

*Kind regards,
Hugh Marston,
Chairman.*

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Communicating with You: The Need for Email Addresses

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Regards to you and many thanks for your continued support.


LRCA



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West Rotoiti Volunteer Fire Unit

The Volunteer Fire Brigade in Okere Falls has seen a promising increase of enthusiastic, new firefighters since the end of last summer. While we were pretty stretched for crew during the late summer months we are now in a position again to respond in "full force" to fires and other emergencies. But as residents' situations change and they move on we are always on the look-out for new firefighters, male and female! With two current crew leaving in the next two months we'd like to train up some new people, so if you are interested in joining, or just want to find out more about the level of training and time commitment required, please call our Training Officer Aaron Martin (362 4752) or myself (362 4264). Anyone can join as long as they are reasonably fit and healthy.

The West Rotoiti Volunteer Fire Unit is a Rural Fire Unit, responding to vegetation fires in the local area, but due to the 20 - 30 minutes driving distance from the Rotorua Fire Station we are also called as a first response to all incidents in the area requiring Fire or Rescue Services support. Our close presence can make a big difference in case of house fires or accidents. The Fire Unit needs volunteer community support in order to give community support, come and give it a go! The past winter was relatively free of incidents, however a number of fires (including a house fire in Mourea and, just recently, a large scale fire at the silica quarry near Tikitere) illustrated the need for us to keep our training up to date and equipment well maintained.

With some people predicting a quite dry summer our training has recently been focusing on fighting vegetation fires. With summer approaching also a reminder that a restricted fire season is in place now (from 1st October 07 to 30th April 08) and permits are required for all open fires. Please call the Rotorua District Council (ph 348 4199) to obtain a fire permit.

Andi Uhl

Summer Roadworks

No major road works are being planned around the lakes on SH30 or SH33 this summer that will greatly disrupt travel or residents. However a small number maintenance works will proceed when weather allows as follows:

1. Recently at Emery Store bend on SH30 Rotoiti, a truck and trailer crashed into the lake destroying the road shoulder and embankment.

As part of Councils reinstatement of this damage an extension to the chipsealed pathway between Gisborne point and the store will be completed.

This work will extend the path several hundred metres east around the Emery Bend following the grass lake edge shoulder. This will enable residents to walk on a sealed path clear of the traffic lane with better vision and clearance from vehicles.

2. A small number of reseals sites will be completed before Christmas on local Highways - please follow speed advice signage.

3. While not in the lakes area, SH36, The Tauranga Direct Rd will have extensive new roadwork's starting after Christmas lasting several summers to improve its width and alignment. Residents should consider using SH33 to avoid delays if they use this route regularly.

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Real Estate Report for 2007

What a year ! 2007 has seen a continued firming of the lakes area/holiday home market, yet the demand for good holiday homes which suit the personal recreational requirements of the purchaser, has enough space for family and friends, always continue to attract good interest and sales.

One of the disturbing features over the past three months has been the dramatic reduction of asking prices on some properties. In my opinion, this does not reflect a dramatic fall in values, as the asking prices were not a reflection of the market value but a "let's try for price" set by vendors. The dramatic reductions are therefore not losses but an adjustment to where the asking price should have been many months before "at or close to market value".

Recent discussions with registered valuers suggest that the need for getting the pricing right will become more important for those genuinely wanting to sell and move on, and as always buying and selling within the same market conditions becomes very important.

Looking ahead I think there shall be some short term bumps in the market as we absorb the actions of Mr Bollard over the past year and the results of some marginal lending by some institutions. Having said that New Zealand remains in good heart and still very much the focus for holiday and recreational properties by both national and international purchasers. So, bearing in mind some of the comments being made by political leaders and the looming elections, I feel the bumps shall be short term and the investments you have made into lakes properties will be, as always great for you and your families.

I take the opportunity to wish you all a very good holiday season and coming year and thank you for the past support

Steve Howard

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Sewerage Scheme Updates

Okere Falls/Otaramarae/Whangamarino

Timeline for Works

Due to delays in obtaining a commitment from Central Government towards funding, the timeline for the proposed sewerage scheme has been put back until either we get a government commitment or the council has developed a funding policy that addresses any shortfall in funding.

At this stage the proposed timeline is as follows:

Detailed design and on property consents to October 2008,

Tender and award of contract November 2008 to December 2008,

Construction and commissioning January 2009 to December 2009.

The tendering and award of the contract will only proceed after funding subsidy from Central Government is confirmed.

Special points of interest:

There is community support for the LPGP systems.

There are some extra costs associated with decommissioning your septic tank.

There are two payment options.

Construction of the sewerage scheme is due to start in January 2009.

Low Pressure Grinder Pump Systems

The Council's public meeting at the Pikiaro Rugby League Clubrooms on 28th November 2006 outlined proposed changes to the original sewerage scheme proposal and invited feedback on preferences for a low pressure grinder pump (LPGP) system or the originally proposed gravity/LPGP hybrid.

Of the responses received 86% supported the proposed redesign to a full LPGP system. Although there seems to be a reasonable level of support for the LPGP system the

overall response rate was poor, with only 16% of residents providing feedback to the council.

Comments received from your community on the use of the LPGP system during the consultation process are summarized below. These issues are being presented to address concerns regarding the proposed change:

Issue 1 "Monitoring of pump alarm",

Should the alarm go off you will need to contact the council in order to get the pump unit fixed. A phone call is all you have to do. You are not required to fix the unit itself. If your water supply goes off or your rubbish isn't picked up, you would ring the council to get action. This system is no different to what you presently do.

Issue 2 "LPGP units must work long term",

The LPGP systems have been successfully used in the Great Lakes area of United States for the past 35 years. These units were developed for the type of environments that we have in New Zealand. The main part of the unit that is likely to wear out is the pump, the pumps have an average life expectancy of 25 years. The annual sewerage fee that will form part of your rates, such as in town, will cover the cost of replacing the pump unit.

Issue 3 "High pumice content in soils will cause excessive wear",

High pumice content will contribute towards wear of the grinding rotors. This wear is expected even under normal conditions. The replacement and maintenance of this part will be included under Council's maintenance programme.

Issue 4 "Having to pay for electricity usage",

The cost of running the pump unit is approximately \$20 per year. When compared to paying the up-front cost of

steve howard

lakeside properties



1274 fenton street
p.o. box 210
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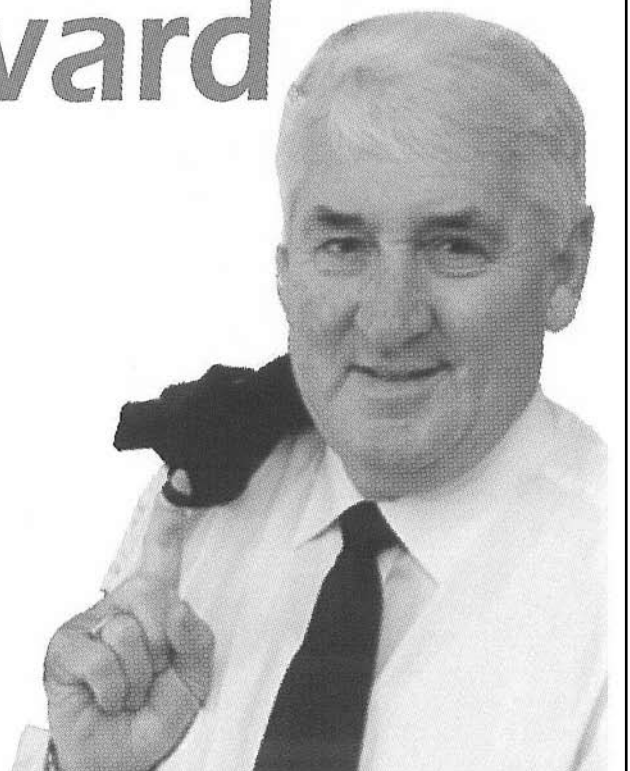
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a private sewer line from your gully trap to the council's connection stub at the lowest point of the property, this electricity cost is a lot cheaper. A private sewer line could cost between \$1,000 to \$3,000 to connect, equating to 50 to 150 years worth of electricity usage.

Issue 5 "Not enough research has been done",

The development of the technology has been based around considerable research. Worldwide there are at least six companies that manufacture the low pressure grinder pump systems. Each of these companies has their own research and development programmes seeking to establish a better and more durable products than their competitors.

FAQ's

Why do I need an LPGP Unit when I am above the road?

The LPGP system uses a smaller diameter street main than the gravity system's 150mm. With the LPGP system the sewage is pumped into the street main and moved around the peninsula under pressure. A gravity connection into the pressurised street main would result in sewage flowing up through the gravity connection and into the property, resulting in raw sewage onto your section.

The council did look at a hybrid system combining gravity and LPGP systems. All street mains would be required to be gravity systems (non-pressurised), while properties below the road would pump up into the gravity network. The hybrid system would not result in a significant cost savings when compared to a full gravity system as a large number of pump stations will still be required with any type of gravity system.

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On-site design of sewerage reticulation system

As part of the design of the LPGP system, a council engineer will visit every property to discuss the location of the pump unit. As long as a gravity connection can be maintained from your last gully trap into the pump unit, the pump unit can under normal circumstances be located anywhere on your property. An audit of your domestic plumbing and electrical system will be undertaken and a surveyor will take the height and coordinates of the proposed pump location, boundary kit and your gully trap; for design purposes.

What extra costs are there?

There are extra costs above the capital cost of infrastructure. For gravity systems you will be required to connect your private line from your gully trap to the connection stub provided by council. This could be anywhere between \$1,000 to \$3,000. For LPGP systems you also have a private line but are likely to pay between \$300 to \$1,000, but have the added electricity cost associated with the pump unit of around \$30/year.

All properties will be required to get their septic tanks cleaned and decommissioned (around \$600 +GST) and get a building consent to connect into the council system (around \$160).

What are the payment options for the sewerage scheme?

Once the sewerage system has been installed you will be given two payment options. These are:

Pay the entire capital contribution as a lump sum payment, or

Get the capital contribution and associated interest for servicing the loan spread across your rates for the next 25 years.

An invoice will be sent out by the council, if you do not pay the invoice in full, the capital contribution plus interest will appear on your next rates bill.

Hinemoa Point Sewerage Scheme

The district council has finally obtained the support of residents for a sewerage scheme at Hinemoa Point. The council proposed low pressure grinder pump system is significantly cheaper than the alternative gravity system. Some residents expressed concerns at the financial implications on rates of having a sewerage scheme, but once all of the alternatives were weighed up the low pressure grinder pump system was the preferred option. The construction of the street reticulation main is expected to start prior to Christmas this year with an expected completion date for the entire scheme of June 2008.

Rotokawa/Brunswick Sewerage Scheme

Hydrus, the council's engineering business group, is presently finalising changes to the design of the Rotokawa/Brunswick sewerage scheme. The inability to secure a site for a gravity sewage pumping station has lead to a major design of part of the Rotokawa scheme area. This will result in the application of low pressure grinder pumps across a larger area.

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

Inaugural Community Board Meeting, 2/11/2007 - Chair's Speech

Your Worship, Mr Guerin, Councillors, Board Members, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is an historic moment. This is the first meeting of Rotorua's first Community Board since the 1989 amalgamation. There is nothing new about community boards in New Zealand – in fact more councils have them than not. But this is new for Rotorua, and that makes this moment special. This meeting marks the end of an extended legal process that has led to the constitution of the Rotorua Lakes Community and the establishment of its first Board, the Rotorua Lakes Community Board.

I want to firstly thank the 646 electors from our Lakes Community who initiated the proposal for the establishment of this Community Board - over 25% of the total electors in the community and considerably more than the 10% required by the Act. And I would like to thank the team of people from the Rotorua Combined Lakes Ratepayers' Association who have worked for over two and a half years towards this day and without whose help this Community Board would not have happened. I wish to also thank the Chief Executive, Peter Guerin and his staff for the assistance they have given us both before and after the election. And perhaps on a more personal note, I would like to thank my fellow Community Board members for the confidence they have shown in me by electing me as the chair of this Rotorua Lakes Community Board. Thank you all.

The statutory role of the Community Board is to-

- represent, and act as an advocate for, the interests of its community; and
- consider and report on all matters referred to it by Rotorua District Council, or any matter of interest or concern to the community board; and
- maintain an overview of services provided by Rotorua District Council within the community; and
- prepare an annual submission to Rotorua District Council for expenditure within the community; and
- communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the community; and
- undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to it by Rotorua District Council.

In its decision, the Local Government Commission left

the question of delegations to the Board as a matter for Council to determine. We see the delegation of local or neighbourhood responsibilities, and the delegation of local service delivery decisions to the Board, as a means of freeing up Council and enabling them to focus on strategic district wide issues without the distraction of too much operational detail.

We look forward to fulfilling our statutory functions and also to accepting further responsibilities delegated to us by Council.

The Local Government Commission found that the common interests and concerns of the residents of the Community include:

- the wellbeing of the lakes and restoring water quality;
- access to Council;
- costs and services associated with living in the area (in particular those associated with rating, and the new sewerage schemes);
- other environmental concerns;
- the positive promotion of tourism in the area, and the need for adequate planning and facilities to cope with recreational activities.

We look forward to addressing these and other concerns over the next three years.

There has been some concern expressed about the Board taking over from the various ratepayer groups in the Community. We do not see it that way. As previously mentioned, the Board has an advocacy roll for the Community and looks forward to communicating with all community organisations including ratepayer groups. While there will obviously be a period of adjustment over the next few months, we see ratepayer and other organisations carrying on in essentially the same way as previously with the Community Board acting as a 'conduit' for the transfer of information and concerns between community groups and Council.

This same concern has been expressed to other boards in other districts but, over time, has not proven to be the case. In a recent telephone conversation with the chair of the Otago Peninsula Community Board, she said that, after initial reservations, that Board and their local ratepayer groups were working together 'very, very well'.

The Rotorua Lakes Community Board looks forward to its responsibilities and functions with enthusiasm. We look forward to working with the Community, Council and its Councillors in a spirit of respect, trust, understanding and goodwill. We are dedicated to improving democratic local decision-making and action by and on behalf of the Community, and to promoting its social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being, in the present and for the future.

Thank you.

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Interested in Contributing?

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

Karen Hunt - A New Councillor's Perspective

Just over a month has passed since the local body elections and it has been an extremely busy period for all newly elected Councillors and Community Board members.

The newly established Rotorua Lakes Community Board (RLCB) is required to have two council representatives and I have been fortunate to be nominated as the North Ward representative, with Dave Donaldson as the East Ward representative.

The RLCB had its first meeting on the 2nd of November 2007 where we unanimously selected Brentleigh Bond as the Chair and Geoff Palmer as the Deputy. Our next meeting is scheduled for the 21st November 2007.

Lake water quality issues were indeed under the spotlight during the election and with good reason. Your community has worked very hard over the past few years and it is now absolutely vital that we as a community work towards the proposals set out in the Draft action plan. The establishment of the Rotorua Lakes Community Board will assist positively in this process.

I am aware there are other significant issues for your communities and we are currently looking at the future strategic direction for the RLCB and hope to report back to the community during early 2008.

As a new councillor, the last six weeks has been a period of intense learning and I anticipate this will probably continue for the next three years!

I look forward to meeting with you next year to listen to your needs and to get to know you and your communities a lot better.

I trust you will all have a good break over the holiday season, enjoying the many lakes we have and like me I'm sure you will be looking forward to a future when the main issue is not lake water quality but having enough time on, in and around our lakes.

Kind wishes for the festive season,

Cr Karen Hunt
07 349 3230
027 495 7547

Councillor Charles Sturt Council

With the re-election of Mayor Winters and the retention of the Committee Chairs and the honeymoon period of the newly elected council almost at an end, it's back to work for the Residents and Ratepayers.

My major focus over the first part of this term as Chairman of the Finance Committee is the long awaited Rates Review. There will be winners and losers but the principles of whatever system is preferred by the Ratepayers of the Rotorua District must be soundly based with the overriding goal of reflecting fairness and ability to pay. Rates are a TAX. No getting away from that and unlike income tax it can not be graduated to income levels or be directly reflective of one's income. Some presumptions are made in the Rates Tax system - ie if you live in a higher Capital or Land value area your ability to pay is higher as well and vice versa.

It is an interesting challenge and we are looking at the implications of removing the Urban/Rural fence, Removal

of Differentials, Moving toward Capital Value Rating, having a transparent UAGC (Uniform annual general charge) which will detail what that actually pays for, targeted rates systems, etc. The review will be comprehensive and most of the spade work was done earlier this year.

Our new Director of Corporate services Mr J.P. Gaston replaces Jack Shallard. JP, as he is known, has already shown his ability to get on with the job and has already simplified the wording so that Public/Council information of this complicated process can be understood. We have a consultation/implementation program before us to consider at the moment. All Stakeholders will be involved and we will be ready to go to public in Feb/March 2008 for full Consultation.

Council Elections

Well it seems inevitable with the advent of the first Community Board that the Ward System which has been in place now for 7 elections is outdated and will be replaced by a District-wide System for the 2010 election. Rotorua's old feud of Rural versus Urban has gone and the mistrust that existed has dissipated over time and we as a district have grown up. Mind you all councillors have represented the whole district and I have never turned away any question because the person or the issue didn't cover the North Ward. People have said they would vote more. Well the recent Rotorua Trust election turnout was pathetic and that's across the whole district.

It's a delight that we welcome new Councillor Karen Hunt to the North Ward team for this term. Karen has already demonstrated her ability to roll up the sleeves and get stuck in. She will be a huge asset to the Rotorua District Council team. I am very impressed with the new members especially Cr Dave Donaldson. Newly Appointed deputy Chair of Finance Cr McVickers is also a councillor who has my respect.

Lakes Water Quality

All the systems/designs are in place to gain Government Subsidy for the sewerage of the lakeside settlements as detailed in the council's 10 year plan. All we need is for this government to put some weight behind the MOU and we will be well on the way. I must say I have always been impressed with former North Ward Councillor and now the Hon. Steve Chadwick MP, the new Minister of Conservation, and her work for Rotorua. While we don't always agree she is passionate about Rotorua and has worked behind the scenes quietly for the people of Rotorua and deserves the promotion to cabinet.

Holiday Season.

The lakes will have their usual influx of visitors over the Xmas/New Year period. If you see matters relating to Council - ie fires, rubbish, idiots in vehicles killing our peaceful ambience around the lakes ring the Police and or the Council after hours. Council's Phone number is 07 3484195.

To you all Denise and my family wish a great Xmas and festive New Year. I hope you enjoy times with your family and celebrate this wonderful part of the World we all are custodian for.

Cr Charles Sturt
07-3493315

Report From Lakeswater Quality Society

To Members of Lake Rotoiti Community Association

Good progress has been made on the Ohau Channel diversion. No doubt many of you will have watched its progress with interest. EBOP are expecting the project to be completed by March 2008. The significance of this diversion on Lake Rotoiti's nutrient loads is best described as follows:

Description	Nitrogen (tonnes/yr)	Phosphorus (tonnes/yr)
Current total nutrient inputs to Lake, including Ohau Channel	364	29
Estimated total nutrient reduction required to achieve TLI targets of 3.5	130	19
Current nutrient inputs to main body of the lake. i.e. 60% of total Ohau Channel volume	150	15
	----	---
Over (under) achievement of Target	20	(4)
	----	---

As you can see the Diversion will enable the nutrient targets to be achieved immediately. This will be a very significant achievement given the huge tonnage of nutrients involved. We are all hoping this will be the Lake's silver bullet. The proposed Lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti Action Plan was published in June 2007. This document is available from Environment Bay of Plenty and their website. <http://www.ebop.govt.nz/Water/Lakes/Lakes-Rotorua--Rotoiti.asp> I strongly recommend that you read this Plan as it gives an excellent insight into the history, science and actions that are needed to restore the water quality of these two iconic lakes. LWQS, together with LRCA, have spent a considerable amount of time participating in the necessary community discussions to develop the Plan to its current stage. Public submissions are now being received on the Plan and it is intended that public hearings will be held in November with the plans being adopted December 2007. This document is extremely important as it becomes the principal driver to amending the existing Rule 11 which is the legally binding foundation for nutrient management in the Lakes' catchments.

LRCA members should be aware that the combined Rotorua Lakes Restoration Programmes are currently estimated to cost \$200 million. Both EBOP and RDC have budgeted on Central Government subsidising these costs to the extent of 50% - \$100 million. Much representation to Central Government has been made by the members of the Rotorua Lakes Strategy Group culminating in a Memorandum of Understanding signed with Central Government in March 2007.

Application under the Memorandum of Understanding for the subsidies referred to above is now being made with the expectation of a "green" light from Cabinet to provide funding in the 2008 budget. We see this as a huge issue for the Rotorua Region as without such funding most of the planned projects can not be funded at the local level. We expect this to be an election issue next year if funding is not forthcoming.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Travel safely and remember the water safety rules.

John Green, Chairman.



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Fish and Game Report

The opening of the 2007-08 trout fishing season saw a total of 955 anglers interviewed on Lakes Rotoiti (370), Tarawera (456) and Okataina (129). These numbers were down slightly on attendance last year but given that October 1st fell on Monday with high winds forecast, the turnout was pleasing.

Lake Rotoiti fish were on average 10mm larger than last years efforts, although the 2-year-olds came in about the same size. Catch rate was slightly down but not significantly so (1 fish for 5 hours spent fishing on average). Deep trolling methods produced best results with wire lines and downriggers producing 1 fish every 3 hours.

The Ohau channel started well on Opening Day and produced a 5.6kg brown and several rainbows exceeding 4kg. Since then a brown hen of 8.34kg (78cm) was landed by Colin Anderson.

Summer Surveys

Fish & Game staff will be conducting summer creel surveys on Lake Rotoiti starting mid-November and going through to mid-April. This provides us with important information regarding the health of the fishery and assists in making management decisions such as liberation strategies. These surveys are relatively painless, and involve a few questions as we weigh and measure your catch. Please ensure you carry your fishing licence on you at all times when fishing and we thank you for your co-operation.

Didymo and Aquatic pests

The introduction of pest fish/ weeds and algae remains a key threat to our waterways. As seen recently the threat of Didymo in the Central North Island created widespread

panic throughout many surrounding regions. Please remain vigilant against these invaders. Remove weed from boat trailers and props, wash down boats, and don't transport live fish or eggs between water bodies. Aquatic weed can also carry pest fish eggs (Koi and catfish eggs are often laid on aquatic weed) and we don't want them here.

Stopping Didymo dead in its tracks is as simple as cleaning all fishing equipment with a 5% solution of dishwashing detergent (50ml detergent/ Litre water) before and after entering waterways. Fishing gear includes rods, reels, flies/ lures, indicators, footwear/ waders and any gear that has come into contact with water. Felt soled waders cant be properly cleaned and require freezing overnight, and we ask people to refrain from using felt soled footwear.

Boaties are not immune as didymo cells can be spread in a single drop of water. Didymo is also showing up in some funny places and doing things its not meant to do. It was not thought capable of surviving in lakes but floating rafts of didymo have been found in Lake Wakatipu, so boaties should also make sure that their carpets are cleaned (squirt some detergent into carpets and rinse through), and squirt some detergent into the bilge area. Kayakers should also add detergent to internal compartments, as well as soaking wet clothing/ wetsuits and booties in a 5% detergent solution.

Rob Pitkethley

Senior Fish & Game Officer

Fish & Game New Zealand, Eastern Region



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EBOP Report – Lake Rotoiti Issues

The Ohau Diversion wall is progressing well, with over 800m of the 1250m wall completed. The expected completion date is February/March 2008. Temporary lighting is in place and this will be replaced with the permanent lighting at 50m intervals along the wall.

The construction of the wall has necessitated the closure of the speed zone into the Okere Arm of the lake. With the walls location this is now a permanent change and compliance with the 5 knot speed limit is necessary.

With the closure of the wall in 2008 ongoing monitoring of water quality, fisheries, algae and avifauna is programmed to establish the performance of the wall and any environmental effects. This monitoring will focus on the first 5 years after closure so that any seasonal variations can be eliminated and the long term performance established.

Weeds and Biosecurity.

Monitoring for new weed incursions will start up from the 19th the main emphasis of monitoring will be to detect incursions of hornwort in lakes Rotoma and Okataina and to assess the effectiveness of control carried out on egeria in Lake Rotomahana.

Lake weed spraying contracted to Aqua Ag services will be carried out at several sites throughout the Lakes. Lakes treated will include Rotoma, Rotoehu, Rotoiti, Tarawera and Rerewhakaaitu. Lake Okataina will be treated in the New Year. As with past years control will be targeted to prevent the spread of weed onto boat ramps, a total area of 23.0 ha will be treated with diquat gel. Control will start on the 19th of November and will; weather permitting be finished by the 23rd.

The weed cordons to be built at lakes Rotoma and Rotoehu are on track with consents granted and materials currently being collected, installation will hopefully start in the New Year when Sanfords have available staff time.

Washtech solutions have been contacted to put together some proposals for a portable wash down facility. The proposal involves the concept of a portable facility that can be used at events and on the roadside at the entry to the Rotorua lakes area.

Two students will be employed by Environment Bay of Plenty and another two students will be employed by the Department of Conservation to carry out Aquatic Pest and Didymo awareness programmes over the summer period. Partial funding for the employment of these students is supplied by Biosecurity New Zealand. The students will be engaging with people at boat ramps and rivers throughout the region over the busy holiday period and distributing publicity material. These programmes have been carried out over the past three years and have been very well received. Information collected by the student's points to raised levels of public awareness.

Rotorua/Rotoiti Action Plan and Rule 11.

A public hearing on the Lakes Rotorua & Rotoiti Action Plan is set for the 3rd and 4th of December. Decisions from the hearing committee are expected to be taken to the Rotorua Lakes Strategy Group in March 2008 for ratification.

The review of 'Rule 11' for Lake Rotoiti has been postponed until June 2008 for the following reasons:

- The 'Rule 11' property nutrient benchmarking process still has a long way to go. Nutrient models and their updates, like NPLAS, OVERSEER and ROTAN will not be ready to run scenarios until early 2008.
- The Lakes Rotorua & Rotoiti Action Plan guidance on the 'Rule 11' review is being finalised through the submission and hearing process.
- The Lakes Rotorua & Rotoiti Action Plan working party, the Sustainable Land Use Implementation Board (SLUIB) and landowner and community groups need time to consider the rule options and give recommendations to staff.
- Maori Trust lands, allocation equity, District Plan changes and nutrient reduction targets need to be properly considered.
- New theory on nutrient trading and alternate nutrient allocation methods will not be available until April 2008, yet this could be a key component of future rules.

We recognise the pressure to make general policy decisions on rule direction, so landowners can plan for their future and the community can have certainty about lake improvement actions. But this needs to be balanced with getting the right information for enduring policy and rules.

Lake Structures Rules

A Plan variation for Lake Structures is to be drafted with lake community representatives in February/March 2008. This will not only be applicable to Rotoiti but include a policy about lake structures for all the Rotorua Lakes.

Stock exclusion from the lakes.

The rules of the Water and Land Plan are now operative and so livestock are no longer allowed to enter lakes. Our land resources staff have been working for many years to achieve the fencing of water ways, and farmers have had available to them encouragement subsidies to assist with fencing. In the main they have been very successful, however there are still some locations where stock are occasionally seen in the lake water. Staff are checking for stock in lakes Rotoehu, Rotoma and Rotoiti in the next few weeks. However, if you see any stock in lake waters or streams, you can contact John Holst or Mike Collins on 0800368267, and they will follow this matter up with the land owner.

Rotoiti Environmental Programmes.

Works have been undertaken on a number of properties with a total of 1380m of fencing completed and nearly 5000 native plants planted in the last 6 months. As part of all EP's pest plant control is undertaken to avoid other nuisance and enhance biodiversity.

Environment Bay of Plenty staff would like to thank the Lake Rotoiti Residents Association for their input and interest in matters around the lakes over the year and wish them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to continuing to work with you over the next year.

HarbourMasters Report

At this time of year we are preparing for the large influxes of summer holiday vessels and day visitors alike.

Increased numbers means that the potential for a 'close quarters' situations is increased. Add to this the number of different types of vessels, some powered, others not, the varying degrees of knowledge and preparation and the odd uncourtious boatie (there's always one!) and we are left with a potential for disaster. Throw in some inclement weather, along with the general mindset that Lake Waters are safe, and this potential for disaster gets worse.

Maritime New Zealand statistics enable us to make the statement that: *"90% of fatal recreational boating accidents involve the Skipper not having enough boating knowledge and experience"*.

Every boat has a Skipper or Person in Charge. The Maritime Transport Act 1994 places certain responsibilities on the Skipper of every vessel. The Skipper is responsible for:

- The Safety of the Vessel
- The Safety of all persons aboard
- Complying with all Maritime Rules and any other regulations.

With this level of responsibility falling on the shoulders of the Skipper or Person in Charge, it is imperative that if you fall into this category, you familiarise yourself with at least the basics, that of the 'rules of the road'.

The Rotorua Lakes can also become very crowded. Vigilance is required to avoid collisions or accidents.

Here is some safety information to remember and pass on to your families, visitors, friends and neighbours.

- There is a 200metre strip around all of our Lake Shores which is restricted to 5 knots: Do not exceed 5 knots within 200 metres of shore

- Skiing from shore may only be done from a ski access lane: You must use a ski lane when skiing from shore
- Skiing is a 3 person sport: You must carry an observer
- Life Jackets save lives: Wear them at all times
- Watch and know the weather: The weather on the Rotorua Lakes can change very quickly and they can become dangerous places to be afloat
- Do not be complacent: It is foolish to believe Lake waters are safer than the sea

Education and preparedness are the keys to being safe out on the water. Do all you can to avert tragedy.

Further information can be sought by contacting the Duty Officer on 0800 368 267 (0800 ENV BOP).

*Yours in boating,
Andrew Lang*

Classic and Wooden Boats

The annual events calendar commenced with a Fishing Weekend on Labour Weekend when approx 20 members fished throughout the Saturday and Sunday culminating in a BBQ and social function at Bill Fowler's Boatshed.

Planning is now underway for the upcoming annual events which form the main activities for the Assn. The Light Parade will take place on the evening of the 2nd January, commencing at approx 8.45pm from Gisborne Point, with launches displaying an array of coloured lights cruising westwards throughout the evening. Final destination Okere Arm.

The Annual Classic and Wooden Boats Parade will take place on the Saturday 9th February, commencing from Okere Arm at 10am and once again cruising through Okawa Bay at approx 10.45 am where good viewing is available from Okawa Bay Road. On the Sunday 10th, following the Parade several regatta events are planned at which members will race dinghies powered by Seagull outboards, race a variety of sailing craft and also test their skill in launch events.

As a group of interested Lake users the Association sought and was awarded \$40,000 plus GST from EBOP's Environmental Enhancement Fund to be spent over 3 years on the installation of 4 composting toilets in popular bays around Lake Rotoiti. The hope is that some of these will be in place for the coming boating season.

Commodore Buzz Rathbone



Grant & Shona Telfer

236 Te Ngae Road, Rotorua, New Zealand.

Phone: (07) 345 9854, Fax: (07) 345 9857

Email: shona@telfermarine.co.nz





Matawhaura

Prominent mountain and bluffs at the north-east end of Rotoiti, above the road between Te Rotoiti and Rotoehu.

Of particular importance to the whole confederation of Ngati Pikiao, it is the site of various pa, cultivations and urupa. Its covering of bush provided forest foods as well as bird and rat-trapping areas, and there were freshwater springs near the summit and lower northern slopes.

The mountain was considered sacred, a place where portents of impending disaster or other events of great consequence were signalled by lightning flashes above its summit. Specially appointed elders used their influence to protect the mountain. The summit and upper levels lay within the influence of Whakahau, while Te Rangimonenehu watched over the lower slopes.

Tradition has that the name, Matawhaura, given by Tahuwera when first exploring the area together with with Urika, Waitaha and Matamoho. Tahuwera married Pikirarunga, and with the consent of Uruika settled on the mountain. His pa here was Maireraunui. Te Pukekino occupied Matawhaura. While visiting Kawaha Te Pukekino married Rangikahiwa who was visiting from the Patetere area. The pair then returned to Matawhaura. Sometime later a small group of Rangikahiwa's people Ngati Te Rangitawhia arrived in Rotorua. Rangikahiwa told Te Pukeino she wanted to see them, and she, Te Pukekino and others went in a large canoe, Te Hokowhitu, to Rotorua to fetch them.

Only a few Ngati Te Rangitawhia arrived at Matawhaura, some remaining in Rotorua and some leaving the canoe at Te Taheke. At the time of their arrival a house named Te Tuhituhi was being built, and the new arrivals assisted in its construction by painting the kowhaiwhai patterns on the rafters, which gave rise to the name. Others speaking of this house assert that it had been built for Patapata's son, Te Whakahau II, who was to be married to Manuku. However, when the house was nearly finished it was discovered that Te Tawhiti, the chief of Ngati Te Rangitawhia, was making love with Manuka. There was anger over this, particularly against Te Pukekino and Patapata for having brought these people to Matawhaura. To prevent any further trouble, Whakahau and Manuku were married immediately.

It has been claimed that after the couple's first night together in the house they were found dead in the morning. It was immediately decided that the deaths were due to a makutu placed on them by a tohunga travelling with Ngati Te Rangitawhia. Had it not been for the intervention of Patapata the strangers would have been killed; instead they were simply driven away by Ngati Makino and all of Waitaha. Whakahau and Manuku were buried at Te Pakipaki, an ancient pa of Peru and Tutehe at the western end of Matawhaura Mountain.

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MINUTES OF THE FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LAKE ROTOITI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC, 7 Janary 2007

Present: Sally Brock (Chairperson); Brentleigh Bond (Treasurer); Phil Thomass, Geoff Turner, Nigel Brock, John Green (Committee Members), Steve Chadwick (MP), Cr Cliff Lee, Lindsay Brighthouse (Past Chair), Bill Cleghorn EBOP, Tai Eru EBOP, Paul Dell EBOP, Cr Russell Judd, Robin Ford ENVBOP, Neil Oppert ENVBOP, Cr Mike McVicar, Chris Stadwick, Putu Mihaka, Cr Charles Sturt, Hon. Paul East QC, And 104 Members.

This was the inaugural AGM of LRCA (Inc) following the winding up of its un-incorporated predecessor LRRRA.

The meeting opened with a Karakia by Tai Eru.

Apologies: T DeLange, I Thompson, Sir Gavin Donne, Kevin Winters, Glenys Searancke, Te Uroora Flavell, Juliette Spence, Hugh Marsden, Rodney Wilson, Jim Stanton, Roly Oppert, Trevor Maxwell.

Moved: Sally Brock/G Turner

That apologies be accepted: Carried

Previous minutes; Minutes of LRRRA of January 2005 AGM

Moved Mary Stanton Seconded: Phil Thomass

That the minutes be accepted as a true record. Carried.

Matters Arising Water

1. Mary Stanton spoke to the water supply for Mourea and said this 15 year issue will not go away and must be further pursued with vigour. The residents of Mourea deserve a clean quality water supply and asked for the issue to remain on the Committee's agenda until it was secured at an affordable price. Mary stressed how vital this was. She acknowledged that sewage had been secured but that the next goal was progress with a quality water supply.

2. Charles Sturt advised the meeting that the Council engineer reported last week to Council and that he hoped to receive further reports in February or March as to a potable source that is affordable.

3. Steve Chadwick advised that the Public Health Drinking Water Bill was going through Parliament and that the submission had been made for the subsidy to apply.

4. Tai Eru referred to Mary's comments on water and said \$130,000 had been spent on an investigation and suggested LRCA access TrustPower's charitable trust for some money to get some action.

5. Nick Miller supported Mary Stanton and Tai Eru, and said RDC should action and not just talk.

6. Marcus Wilkins talked of an underground clean water supply in Ngareta Road and suggested this be further pursued.

7. Cliff Lee said the source had never been tested for quality.

8. Charles Sturt said it had been, 10 years ago, and results showed it had have a high propensity of arsenic, but agreed there was nothing recent or up to date.

9. Robin Sinclair outlined the source of the underground stream and the fact that it passed under his property and was used by him for his commercial business. He confirmed that the source had regularly been tested, the quantity available was considerable and that all repetitive testing had shown the water quality to be pristine and clear.

10. Sally Brock and Brentleigh Bond confirmed that this issue had been taken to Council before, they well knew about it but had chosen to ignore it.

11. Mary Stanton spoke to that Ngareta Road water supply source. She confirmed that local people have known of this for a long time and had made it known to Council, particularly when the expensive Hamurana Proposal was put up for debate. She posed the question as to why there was a need to get water from Hamurana when there is a good local source under a local road. She noted that Council continued to maintain they did not know of this source but this is nonsense. It was amply demonstrated when the sewage trench was being dug, with

severe incursive flooding experienced. She went on to say that when the Okawa Bay Hotel was built they got water from a spring. Council was told, why does it not listen to the local people she said.

12. Bob Armstrong spoke to item J on page 6 of last year's minutes in relation to the speed of jet skis. He queried the Harbour master's role in controlling the activity of jet skis and said that this issue has been the subject of frequent complaints and had been raised time and time again. Bob asked for comment from RDC and the committee. Sally responded that letters have now been written to the Harbour Master's Superior -Carl Magazinovic Maritime Manager- for action to be taken on what she considered to be deficiencies of duty.

13. Paul Dell responded on behalf of Carl and advised that a recreation forum had been set up to deal with this issue. He confirmed EBOP now controls all lakes but that it was a resources issue.

14. Sally Brock responded recording her disappointment at the lack of response from EBOP to her correspondence and Paul Dell undertook to take it up with Carl and ensure some action.

15. Bob Armstrong strongly made the further point that the employer of the Harbour Master should attend next year's meeting to answer any further queries if the current deficient performance continues.

16. Peter Carr Smith asked whether there are logs of public records of visits to Rotoiti by the Harbour Master and to see what they are actually doing if anything. He requested that if a public log existed could the records be made available at next year's AGM.

17. Robin Ford also spoke on jet skis and said the Harbour Master's response to his complaint of a specific breach was pathetic, involving only a warning. He suggested legislative changes are needed to confiscate jet skis. Currently there exists only a fine as a penalty.

18. Paul Dell responded by saying that jet skis were not separately classified. They are a boat. He confirmed the infringement fine was up to \$200.00 and was contained in bylaws. He confirmed EBOP do prosecute in serious cases but that confiscation in terms of existing laws and bylaws could not be invoked.

19. Ann Green advised the meeting that she had spoken to a local resident yesterday who advised that jetski abuse was an extremely common problem.

20. Cynthia Armstrong requested Steve Chadwick initiate legislative action. Steve replied advising she meets with the CEO and Chair of EBOP quarterly and undertook to talk to them in her next meeting in February with a view to better action. Steve requested that LRCA write a letter to her so that she can take the meeting's sentiments to the Maritime Association.

LWQS

21. John Green on behalf of the Lakes Water Quality Society advised that its AGM was being held this year at Lake Okareka on 28th January at 9:30am.

Wooden Boat Parade

22. The meeting was advised that this was to take place on 3rd February and that registration forms could be obtained from Nigel Brock. Lindsay Brighthouse spoke to the extent of the parade and history.

Financial

23. Brentleigh Bond reported and noted that following the wind up of LRRRA that the net balance of \$18,000 had been transferred to the LRCA

Moved: Bond Seconded: Armstrong

That the initial accounts be accepted and that Ivan Thompson be reappointed as auditor. Carried

Election of Officers

Moved: Turner Seconded: Bond

That Sally Brock be elected as chairperson. Carried

Moved: Sally Brock Seconded: Robin Sinclair
That B Bond be elected treasurer. Carried

Moved: Sally Brock Seconded: Ann Sinclair

That John Green, Phil Thomass, Steve Howard, Bill Kingi, Geoff Turner, Glenys Wilson and Ann Green be elected to the committee Carried

Community Board

24. B Bond reported that the Community Board appeal was successful and one had been created. He presented a PowerPoint presentation including a map of the designated area, the role of a Community Board pursuant to section 52 of the Local Government Act 2002, that it would constitute six members (four elected and two appointed by RDC) – one from the north ward and one from the east ward. He advised that the four lakes communities had met and agreed to nominate one candidate for election, each with such members to run for election under the combined banner of the Combined Lakes Ticket. He requested that anyone who wished to stand should let Sally Brock or himself know by 20th January 2007.

25. Lindsay Brighthouse spoke of the Community Board as being a first for Rotorua and expressed his hope of a new style of RDC governance. He advised the Community Board is a huge step forward and called for good people to stand for the Board. He noted the Board will only work if it has good people on an effective board.

Moved: B Bond Seconded: Sally Brock

The following three resolutions were carried. 1.

That the Committee is empowered to select a candidate to stand for the Community Board.

2. That the candidate will be affiliated to the “Combined Lakes Ratepayers”.

3. That this Society will endorse, support and publicly identify with the four selected candidates.

General Business

(a) Brentleigh Bond reported on the winding up of the Baths Society and advised as to the formation of the Lake Rotoiti Charitable Trust. The Baths Society was created over 50 years ago but that the lease expired in 1999. He confirmed that the Society was wound up and that the charitable trust formed would be available for funding appropriate local projects. Ann Green queried the current 10pm closing time as being too early over the peak summer period and requested that a letter be sent to Tim Manning to ask for an extension of hours. Tai Eru said if actioned it will cost more as the manager works very long hours now and further hours will involve further cost. Nick Miller said users are paying more now in terms of the casual rate which was up 50%. Tai Eru said he will take it to the Committee. Tim Manning said he would look at it but confirmed that the water would be emptied daily, as if it is left in, people arrive after hours.

(b) Mary Sheffield noted that the walkway from Rotoiti School to Emery’s Store is very overgrown and is in need of repair and renovation. Charles Sturt suggested the Committee write to Council.

(c) Michael McCarthy from Gisborne Point asked as to the progress of the East Rotoiti Transfer Station. Charles Sturt replied and said that the forestry site had fallen over but that a new site was close to being agreed upon but that its position currently remained confidential meantime.

(d) Campbell Johnston asked as to the progress of sewerage systems. Paul Dell replied saying that trials were continuing and there was a report due out in the next few weeks. That report will be posted on the EBOP website. He also noted that the Ministry of Environment were looking at a national standard. Michael asked for an indication of when the system would be brought to Gisborne Point. Charles replied that RDC is looking at long term permanent reticulation and that reports have been completed. He talked of a system for up to 200 houses as currently being assessed. Michael talked about the success

of a system at Waitahanui at Taupo and suggested that scheme should be looked at.

(e) Steve Chadwick spoke to the meeting and congratulated LRCA on its last year and its success in achieving the formation of a Community Board. She advised that the new CEO at EBOP, Bill Bayfield was a very good man and then talked about the Sustainable Land Management Board. She talked of Paul Dell in very complimentary terms and assured the meeting that the Government will give Paul as a ‘one armed paper hanger’ as much support as it could. She advised that the Ministry of Environment MOU was close and that the Government will come to the party with a contribution towards lake restoration. She spoke of her knowledge of the Waitahanui sewerage system where each house has a grinder. She noted the Ministry of Health sewerage subsidy was oversubscribed but this issue will now come under the MOU. She noted that there is an international waste water conference in Rotorua in September just before the elections.

(f) Elizabeth Miller asked if the Ministry of Health sewerage subsidy had increased from 50% to 90%. Steve Chadwick said that it was but the problem was that it was over subscribed. Steve said that is why she is hopeful for the extra inclusion in the MOU and the budget created under it.

Lakes restoration

1. Paul Dell presented a very informative PowerPoint presentation. It noted that for Lake Rotoiti targets were 130 tonnes of nitrogen per year and 19 tonnes of phosphate per year to come out. He considered this achievable and noted that the diversion wall will go a long way towards achieving it. He noted that EBOP had funded the establishment of a lakes research chair and that two research students were working on the lakes full time and such was fundamental to progress. EBOP is working through the Kaituna River issues and developing a draft plan. He noted that a lease had been signed for access to the wall in relation to the point at which the wall came ashore. He noted the current proposal is with MLC but is strongly supported by local iwi. He noted that EBOP is awaiting the government announcement as to extra funding. He noted that the wall construction starts in June 2007 and probably will be a multi-derek piling operation.

2. In response to a question from the floor, he advised that while the wall is being built the boat ramp will be out of action for 9-12 months but that arrangements have been made to use the ramp in Okawa Bay. He responded to a question from Tim Manning, advisory that sheet piling is the method of wall construction. After the wall is constructed Paul anticipates that there will be a 40-50% reduction of algal bloom over the next four years.

3. Paul Dell spoke to the care needed to prevent the spread of Didymo. He advised that Steve Smith of Eastern Fish and Game is doing everything he possibly can to prevent migration.

4. John Green spoke to boat sheds and jetties and that some residents had got letters and some not. Paul Dell replied they are being done in blocks over a period of time and that jetties and boatsheds are being treated separately. He suggested the retrospective granting of Resource Consent for owners previously registered with RDC is very cost effective for residents. In line with the practice for new consents, the term will be 10 years, requiring a new application on expiry.

5. Paul Dell said there will be a review during the ten year period to “assess structures”. He confirmed that removals or non-renewals were only envisaged in areas where there are multiple jetties within say 3-5 metres of each other. Paul confirmed also that one of the vital issues will also be the presence or otherwise of dab chicks.

6. Nick Miller pointed out that the Harbour Master’s office is dysfunctional in terms of structures.

7. Don Atkinson thanked Sally and her committee for the huge work undertaken on behalf of the Association and the meeting closed.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Fire, Police, Ambulance, Search & Rescue	111
Accident / Medical Centre (0800-2200)	348-1000
Urgent Pharmacy (0830 - 2130, 24/7)	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
Harbour Master - Andrew Lang	0800-368-267
- After Hours	07-921-3375
Coastguard - Richard Packham	348-9490
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
Pumps -Hi Flo Pumps	348-7516
- A/Hrs	025-274-6881
Septic Tanks - Allens United	332-3694
- Rotorua Waste Disposal	357-4534
Emerys Store	362-7866
Happy Angler Store	362-4709
Okere Falls Store	362-4944
Rotoma Trading Post	362-0722

REFUSE DISPOSAL

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 apply. Recycling Free of Charge

Domestic Waste only

No Trucks

No Hazardous Waste

For further information call RCC (07) 348-4199

Rotorua Landfill

Located off Atiamuri Highway SH30

1.6km from Waipa Junction

Hours:

Monday - Saturday 7.30am - 4.30pm

Sunday and Public Holidays 9.30am - 4.30pm

CLOSED Christmas Day

Landfill Fees Apply

MEDICAL SERVICES

Ngati Pikiao Health Services

Tamatea St, Hinehopu, Rotoiti

Ph 07-362-7888

Mon 9 - 2pm, Fri 9 - 1pm

Ngapuna Health Centre

283-293 Te Ngae Rd, Rotorua

Ph 07-345-7412

Mon, Tues, Fri 9 - 5pm

Wed, Thurs 9 - 7pm

2007 LAKE ROTOITI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

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

LAKE MAINTENANCE

NOEL & SUZANNE RUEBE

OKERE FALLS

**LAWNS - GARDENS - RUBBISH REMOVED -
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**PHONE Noel 027-494-8730, Suzanne 021-072-1241,
Glen 021-139-8860
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