



LAKE ROTOITI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.



Solution nearing conclusion

**Proposed Resource Consent Renewals for the
Okere Gates and the Ohau Channel Weir.**

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

As would be expected, this year has resulted in an enormous amount of work for the LRCA sub-committee formed to work on the proposed Resource Consent Renewals for the Okere Gates and the Ohau Channel Weir. An update on the position of these consents follows.

RESOURCE CONSENT RENEWALS FOR THE OKERE GATES AND OHAU CHANNEL WEIR

The Commissioners' Hearing for the renewal of the Resource Consents for the Okere Gates and the Ohau Channel Weir is currently adjourned. All submissions were heard and the Consent Officers presented their report. The only outstanding item was the right of reply by the Applicant (Bay of Plenty Regional Council). The adjournment is in order to await a High Court decision on a Tasman case explained below. The adjournment was called before the Applicant's right of reply in order to not start the clock for Commissioners to come to a decision.

Doug Arcus (Chairman of the Commissioners) indicated that the issue of "Existing Environment" is "unsettled" in Environment Court law. This issue is to be argued in the Tasman case on Thursday 9th December and a ruling made by the High Court as soon as possible, potentially before Christmas. The ruling in the Tasman case will provide precedence and guidance on the "Existing Environment" for the Okere/Ohau consent. At issue for both the Tasman case and the Okere/Ohau consent is whether the "Existing Environment" against which effects are compared, is the environment of the current consent, or the environment that existed prior to any consent being issued.

Mr Arcus indicated that he will issue direction to relevant parties once the judgement on the Tasman case is received.

If the judgement is that the "Existing Environment" is that with the current consent in place, he will call for the applicant's written right of reply and the Commissioners' will deliberate and make a decision.

If the judgement is that the "Existing Environment" is the environment that existed prior to any consents, he will consider what steps to take and issue appropriate directions at that stage.

LRCA's case had a good hearing and was presented after considerable consultation with BOPRC, Te Arawa and Ngati Pikiao, in addition to assisting others in their presentations.

There was a strong presentation by Tamatea Street Ratepayers which highlighted their concerns of lakeshore flooding and the necessity for mitigation. The Tapuaekura Society Inc. also made a quality presentation particularly concerning ecology.

Reflux around the Ohau Wall was high on the agenda for the Commissioners and we can anticipate their attention to this issue.

A part of the renewal of the above consents is the Operating Regime and LRCA's sub-committee has worked hard (and is continuing to do so) with BOPRC and other parties to ensure, that such a regime ensures that there is no opportunity for reflux to occur. Community pressures on our lake are very diverse and the eventual operating regime must have regard not only for all lake residents and users, but also, most importantly, for the long-term well-being of our lake.

LAKE WEED

Lake weed is our next big problem. There are areas of the lake that are heavily infested and could potentially cause major problems to lake users. Kayakers have already had serious problems in Okawa Bay.

Currently the policy carried out by BOPRC is that there is no funding for amenity values; there is, however, funding for environmental values. This means that the weed does not get sprayed in October/November, before it grows and when it could be knocked back to avoid navigational issues and other interference during the summer period. The weed then grows back in March/April and that is when the BOPRC budget is used for environmental reasons to harvest the weed to take the nutrients out of the water column.

It is obvious that the problem is a budgetary one and we are going to have to ensure that health and safety takes a forward position. Currently there is no budget for amenity values. LINZ (the body that inherited the Government's responsibility for lake bed maintenance following the Treaty Settlement that deeded the lake beds to Te Arawa), has a budget of \$60,000 for the Rotorua lakes....a budget too small for a substantial problem. We have made a submission to BOPRC on this matter, the details of which are printed in this newsletter

CARE GROUP

As always our Care Group has worked hard with plantings and clean ups. If you feel you have time to offer please see Jan's article and give her a call.

Season's Greetings and I look forward to seeing Members and potential new members at the Annual General Meeting on Monday 3rd January 2011.

HILARY PRIOR (CHAIRPERSON)

THANK YOU

The LRCA Executive Committee would like to express their very grateful thanks to Warren Webber, Michael Gill and Brentleigh Bond who have volunteered a considerable amount of their time over the last year to ensure that our Association put forward an excellent case for the Commissioners' Hearing for the Renewal of Resource Consents for the Okere Gates and the Ohau Channel Weir.

OF THE LAKE ROTOITI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.

To be held at Pikiao Rugby League Clubrooms, Takinga street, Mourea
10 am Monday 3rd January 2011

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LRCA

HELD ON JANUARY 3RD 2010 AT THE PIKIAO RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB

PRESENT

Jim & Mary Stanton, Lindsay Brighouse (Life Member)

Todd McLay (Rotorua MP)

The Right Hon Paul East

Steve Chadwick (MP)

John Cronin (Chairman EBOP)

Ian Noble (Councillor, EBOP)

Andy Bruere (EBOP Officer)

Dave Donaldson, Karen Hunt, Trevor Maxwell, Charles Sturt, Maggie Bentley (RDC Councillors)

Nick Miller, Gerald Plested, Keith Smith, Fraser Wilson, David Wilson, Phill Thomass, Helen Prior (LRCA Committee members)

153 members per attendance sheet

APOLOGIES FROM MEMBERS

Robin Sinclair, Judy Smith, Mr & Mrs Browning, S. La Roche, Peter Stewart.

2. WELCOME

Hilary Prior chaired the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Hilary especially thanked Life Members, Jim and Mary Stanton and Lindsay Brighouse. She also welcomed Tai Eru.

She advised that as a Public Meeting would commence at 10.30 am this AGM would close at 10.20 am and, if necessary, reconvene after the General Meeting. This was agreed.

3. MINUTES OF 2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Amendment to report on Rubbish

Fraser Wilson requested an amendment to his recorded wording, "doing away with rubbish bags". What he said was, "move to curbside collection and then move to recycling collection".

Moved, with above amendment: Nick Miller

Seconded: Brentleigh Bond

4. MATTERS ARISING

To be discussed in General Business.

5. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Hilary Prior presented the Chairpersons Report.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

Gerald Plested presented the Treasurer's Report. Gerald spoke to the attached financial report, which was distributed. Gerald was pleased to

advise that financially this year had been a normal year.

Moved that the report be accepted: Fraser Wilson

Seconded: John Green

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairperson – Hilary Prior stood down from the Chair, while nominations for the position of Chairperson were accepted. Brentleigh Bond nominated Hilary Prior as Chair. Seconded by Elizabeth Miller. There being no further nominations, Hilary Prior was elected as Chairperson for 2010.

Secretary – due to Helen Prior's resignation and there being no nominations for the position, nominations were sought from the floor. No nominations forthcoming.

Treasurer – Bob Armstrong moved that Gerald Plested be elected as Treasurer. Seconded: John Green. There being no further nominations Gerald Plested was elected as Treasurer.

COMMITTEE ELECTION

Carolyn Hobbs, Max Hughes, Nick Miller, Keith Smith, Jim Stanton, Phill Thomass, David Wilson and Fraser Wilson be elected/co-opted en masse, as committee members.

Moved: Paul Prior. Seconded: Hilma Gill

Hilary thanked the Committee for all their support over the year and looked forward to working with them again this year.

8. MATTERS ARISING AND GENERAL BUSINESS

Bob Armstrong congratulated the Committee on the excellent quality of the December newsletter and referred to the article on the Lake Level Consent Renewal Update. Bob spoke to the meeting showing the changes that would be made to the lake level if the EBOP proposal were to be implemented. Bob put forward a Resolution;

'That this Association strongly supports the 'status quo' in relation to the current maximum and minimum lake levels applicable to the existing Resource Consent, and it most strenuously opposes any variations, including the proposed EBOP one as published on page 3 of the Association's Newsletter of December 2009.'

Brentleigh Bond suggested that this matter be left for discussion at the Public Meeting. However, Grant O'Donald thought that this meeting did need to do something.

Proposal was seconded by Nick Miller. Vote to the proposal was taken by way of a show of hands.

Vote was for, with 1 against. The Resolution was carried.

Water Supply – Mary Stanton spoke on the issue of water supply and the importance of water to the health of people. Mary hoped that one day we will get a water supply and believed that we should approach the Rotorua District Council. Mary was disappointed water supply was not given a price so that people could make a decision.

ANDY BRUERE'S REPORT FROM EBOP

Andy discussed the status of the twelve lakes he oversees and the proposed protection and restoration of these lakes.

Lake Rotoiti and Lake Rotorua. During 2009 the Wall continues to be a success. TLI Values dropped from 4.3 at their peak to 3.9, and water quality has improved. A low light was that during autumn there was algae in the Okere Arm. This is a result of algal blooms in Lake Rotorua. The restoration of Lake Rotorua is ongoing. There is no short-term solution to algae bloom and EBOP are looking at algae harvesting. Algae have other end uses and this project is aimed at evaluating the effort required to harvest wild algae from the environment.

Weed Harvesting had a budget of \$14,000.00 looking at extending if practical.

Work is continuing to develop the Tikitere de-nitrification plant. A full scale plant is aimed at taking up to 30 tons of nitrogen out of the Waiohewa stream.

Lake Okaro has had its second application of modified zeolite aimed at locking in the phosphorus released from the sediment.

Andy distributed a hand-out regarding Aqua flow Bionomic Corporation Limited Overview of harvesting wild algae. A Resource Consent is being sought for work in the autumn over a period of 6 months – 1 year.

Hilary asked if it would be intrusive within the community? Andy advised that it would not be and that it is similar to a farmer's irrigation system, which is unobtrusive and would be nowhere near boating areas.

Andy asked for an indication from the floor that Aqua flow would receive the support from the Community and Lake Users at large.

A vote was taken by way of a show of hands from everyone present at the meeting.

Consensus was given.

Tai Eru as Chair of Hells Gate Trust, offered a short history on the Hells Gate area and how Maori look at resources. Tai supported Mary with her fight for water supply. He remembered in 1992 when Mary's father was fighting for water supply to the area. Tai thanked Andy for his tremendous amount of work.

John Green as Chairperson of LWQS advised the meeting that as it currently stood it will take 240 years to clean Lake Rotorua. Lake Rotorua is a substantial problem and there are many issues that need to be urgently addressed. John Green acknowledged the work that Andy has carried out and thanked him.

The Meeting was closed at 10.20 am. Don Atkinson asked that the meeting reconvene after the Public Meeting.

At 12.15 the Meeting reconvened.

Hilary chaired the meeting.

The question was asked from the floor "Where do we go from here?" in regard to the renewal of the Resource Consents for the Okere Arm and the Ohau Channel. Hilary advised that as this Committee is a Registered Charity it was necessary for us to have a mandate from the members before we could move forward. This mandate had been achieved today at the Public Meeting at which more than 550 people had attended.

There was discussion on how to look for contributions if there should be a need for this matter to be taken to the Environment Court. Hilary advised that she was prepared to do this and that there had already been offers of finance to assist.

Media coverage was also discussed and options were offered. Bob Smith offered to contact Barry Coleman of the Daily Post. Hilary advised that this was currently being addressed and that a press release was being drafted on our behalf.

John Green thanked Hilary on behalf of the Members for her long hours in organising this meeting.

Campbell Johnstone wished to record his disappointment that representatives from EBOP's Rivers & Drainage Department were not present at this meeting.

The Meeting closed at 12.25 pm

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LAKESWATER QUALITY

This year LWQS has been involved in the challenges surrounding the management and public policies for fresh water in the Te Arawa Lakes region. Our emphasis has been on Lake Rotorua and Lake Rotoiti, particularly the Okere arm, will not improve until the water quality of Rotorua does.

LWQS is holding our 7th Symposium, **Fix a Lake and Grow a City** – A Case Study of Rotorua on **7 – 8 April 2011**, at the Rotorua Convention Centre. It is about the challenge of cleaning up the lake and growing prosperity in the Rotorua district. See details in this newsletter or check our website www.lakeswaterquality.co.nz

The TLI index for the lake shows improvement at 3.9 versus 4.1 (three year average to 2007). This does not include the Okere arm which is not measured by the authorities. The Regional Water and Land Plan target for Lake Rotoiti is 3.5.

In September our second newsletter edited by Warren Webber was issued and over 4,000 copies were circulated in the Rotorua Region. The feedback is very positive and content seen as educational. If you have not received a newsletter please contact Ann Green (07 362 4204).

Our submissions to the Resource Consent Renewal Hearings for the Okere Gates expressed concern on reflux of the Rotorua waters around the end of the diversion wall into the main body of the lake. We will continue to monitor this issue during the finalisation of the consent.

Our AGM is on **Monday 31 January 2011** at 10.00 am at the Pikiaro Rugby League Club Rooms, Mourea.

Best wishes to you all for the upcoming festive season and may 2011 be a disastrous free year.

JOHN GREEN. CHAIRMAN

NZ DABCHICKS – WORLD FAMOUS IN ROTORUA

We have a very special waterbird in the Rotorua Lakes area that is rarer than kiwi. New Zealand dabchicks, or weweia, are found nowhere else in the world, and their total population estimate is less than 1500 birds. The Rotorua lakes are home to one third of the total population of dabchicks, and Lake Rotoiti has the highest number of dabchicks of all the Rotorua lakes.

Dabchicks spend their whole lives on the water, and are usually found close to shore in areas that are sheltered from the prevailing wind and have vegetation cover. Dabchicks breed from about August to May, but most nests are unsuccessful due to water level fluctuation, wave action and disturbance of nests. So to help protect this special species, please keep your speed to 5 knots within 200 m of shore, and try not to disturb dabchicks by getting too close to them in your boat.

JOHLENE KELLY

RANGER - BIODIVERSITY

(MONITORING ROTORUA LAKES AREA OFFICE,

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION)



LAKESWATER QUALITY SOCIETY 2011 SYMPOSIUM

FIX A LAKE AND GROW A CITY - A CASE STUDY OF ROTORUA

APRIL 7TH-8TH

**ROTORUA CONVENTION CENTRE, ROTORUA, NEW ZEALAND
1170 FENTON STREET, ROTORUA, 3010**

Clean up the lake and grow prosperity in the district. That is the challenge faced by Rotorua. The LWQS 2011 Symposium, Fix a Lake and Grow a City, will look at ways to achieve both goals.

Lake Rotorua is the largest of the dozen Rotorua lakes and the hardest one to restore. Big changes are needed in land-use and farming to speed up purification of the lake but how can this kind of change bring economic growth?

Rotorua has abundant resources – lakes, forests, geothermal, and in human terms, the culture of Te Arawa. The potential is great.

The Symposium will draw on the best New Zealand and international experience to explore how the environment and the regional economy can be enhanced.

The issues the Symposium will address – land use change, planning, the environment and economic opportunities have relevance for cities everywhere.

The LWQS has been at the forefront of bringing together the expertise needed to restore lakes. This will be the seventh LWQS symposium and it promises to be of interest to regional and local governments, environmentalists, scientists and those interested in tourism, forestry, agriculture and energy.

For further information contact:

SYMPOSIUM SECRETARY – Ann Green, 53 Te Akau Road, R D 4, Rotorua. Tel (07) 362 4204

REGISTRATIONS/TREASURER – Brentleigh Bond, P O Box 2008, Rotorua. Tel (07) 362 4700

EMAIL: symposium@lakeswaterquality.co.nz

WEBSITE: www.lakeswaterquality.co.nz

Lakes
WATER
QUALITY Society

LRCA'S DATA BASE NEEDS SOME MEMBER TLC

LRCA's database has been built up over many years and contained physical addresses of all nearly all Lake Rotoiti residences, their then owners names, and those owners' postal addresses. Data relating to active members is continually updated via their feedback but a lot relating to the rest of the community is becoming unsound due to a number of brand new infill houses, local houses changing hands, and out of town owners moving to a new postal address.

Within our data base of about 1,200 residences we have about 200 to whom we no longer send mail because previously it came back:- "gone no address". In the days before the Privacy Act it was relatively easy to get updated bulk information from the Council to make corrections in such cases, but now it is a very onerous painstaking task. Four or five years ago a couple of your then committee members spent copious hours and days going through individual land records to update the

data property by property. We believe this is something to which each member could contribute a little bit of time.

The more additional properties that our mail gets to, the more active and financial members we may attract to give further strength to the Association's voice.

If all active members would interact with their surrounding neighbours at Lake Rotoiti and tell them – if they don't know – about LRCA, show them the newsletter, tell them about our recent and past successes, and encourage them to send in the details; our contact details are in the newsletter. Especially, but not only, to neighbouring houses that have been built or changed hands in the last few years, because there are others who may have slipped through the cracks at the beginning.

Please help your Association!

ROTORUA LAKES COMMUNITY BOARD

BRENTLEIGH BOND

ROTORUA LAKES COMMUNITY BOARD

EMAIL: GRAHAMB@CLEAR.NET.NZ

The year for the Board has been a busy one with the October election perhaps taking centre stage. With Phillip Karauna deciding not to stand for a second term, three residents of the Lake Rotoehu/Rotoma community indicated their interest. Following a selection process that was initiated by that community, Leo Meharry, the Chair of the local ratepayer association, was nominated. In all, five candidates for the four seats were nominated and at one stage it looked like there would be a contested election. In the event one candidate withdrew his nomination, and the result was an uncontested election.

Members of the Board for the 2010 – 2013 triennium are Brentleigh Bond (chair), Lake Rotoiti; Geoff Palmer (deputy chair), Lake Okareka; Neil Callaghan, Lake Tarawera; Leo Meharry, Lake Rotoma/Rotoehu; Cr. Maggie Bentley and Cr. Dave Donaldson, RDC appointees. We welcome Maggie and Leo to the Community Board and our thanks go to Phillip Karauna and Cr. Karen Hunt for their support and assistance over the past three years.

Our thanks also go to Nigel Wharton, who retired shortly before the election, and the many other RDC officers who have assisted in the smooth running of the Board (well, fairly smooth). Following Nigel's retirement, RDC officers Jean-Paul Gaston and Peter Christophers have been appointed as the Board's link with Council for the next three years and we look forward to working with them.

Our work over the past 18 months on the 'Pressure on the Rotorua Lakes' initiative led to a survey of all Community ratepayers (over 2,500 letters were sent) seeking their views. One hundred and twenty responses were received covering a wide range of issues and, together with a report from APR Consultants, has provided good support for our approach to both RDC and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council [BOPRC] (formerly EBOP) for solutions. (The results of the survey and the APR report can be viewed on www.rdc.govt.nz/communityboard).

Following this survey, the Board made a submission to RDC's new Corporate and Customer Services Committee seeking consideration of the various issues involved as part of the 2011-12 Annual Plan and the 2012-2022 Ten Year Plan processes. The submission was well received by Councillors and all issues raised were sent forward for consideration in the drafting of these Plans.

Earlier this year as part of the Annual Plan process, the Board

sought funding from BOPRC for lake weed control. The response was somewhat disappointing in that the limited funds available are being well spent on nutrient reduction (harvesting) and preventing the spread of weeds between lakes (spraying around launching ramps), but there is effectively no budget to control or manage weed for amenity and safety reasons.

This situation is further complicated with the new owners of the lakebeds having no responsibility for the control of weeds attached to the lakebed, with hornwort growing in the water column (not the lakebed), and with the obligations of the Crown resting on an interpretation of the word 'will' or 'will seek'. (clause 10.1.6(b) Te Arawa Lakes Deed of Settlement). The present situation is accordingly far from clear. Recent approaches to local MPs, Crown agencies LINZ and Boffa Miskell, Te Arawa Lakes Trust, BOPRC, and BOPRC officers, has produced little and presently has the appearance of a wild goose chase. The Board has recently made a formal submission to the BOPRC's Draft Regional Pest Management Strategy seeking at least some clarification and direction.

If lake weed becomes an issue for you this summer, and you feel constrained to express your thoughts in writing to someone, please email me at grahamb@clear.net.nz for a list of names and addresses.

On behalf of the Board, I wish you all a really great Christmas and a bright and prosperous New Year.

ROTORUA LAKES COMMUNITY BOARD PROPOSED 2011 MEETING DATES

10 February	Rotoma Community Hall	7.00 pm
24 March	RDC CR1	1.30 pm
28 April	Lake Rotoiti (Venue to be advised)	7.00 pm
30 June	RDC CR1	1.30 pm
11 August	Tarawera Buried Village	7.00 pm
22 September	RDC CR1	1.30 pm
3 November	Lake Okareka Community Hall	7.00 pm
15 December	RDC CR1	1.30 pm

CENTRAL PARK NZ



Central Park NZ is a destination brand that was commissioned by the Rotorua Airport Company to encapsulate the group of Regional Tourism Operators who agreed to support Rotorua as the Trans Tasman [air] gateway to an area from the top of the Coromandel to Hawkes Bay and inland to Ruapehu. Tourism Rotorua and the other RTO's have taken ownership of the brand and market it.

The website www.centralparknz.com is a key tool for marketing the brand and the destination. Rotorua is such a small destination and Australians think nothing of driving three hours - for them that is a short trip, but from Rotorua it will take you anywhere in 'Central Park NZ'. There are so many tourist destinations within Central Park NZ that fit within the concept of a park; marine parks, forest parks, national parks, regional parks - the list goes on, and Australians love that stuff.

Support for the trans Tasman services benefits the Rotorua economy, our ratepayer owned airport and could result in additional trans Tasman flights in the future.

LAKE ROTOITI CHARITABLE TRUST

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Our Deed of Trust provides for Trustees to retire after a term of four years. Trustees may be reappointed for a further term but must take a break of at least one year on completion of two consecutive terms.

Accordingly, Trustees Robin Sinclair and Bruce Holt have retired, and Barry Bringans (BOPTYS) and Keith Smith (LRCA) have been appointed. Trustees Ian Summersby, Paul Nichols, Hugh Marston (chair), Ross Mabey, Greeta Hulme, and Brentleigh Bond have retired and been reappointed. Together with Trustee Nick Miller (appointed April 2009) we look forward to continuing to assist with charitable projects around Lake Rotoiti.

Trustees recently attended and presented prizes to the Pikiao Schoolboys Rugby League teams. The boys had played well throughout the season, winning most of their grades and it was a real pleasure to play a small role at their prize giving ceremony. Our congratulations to the teams.

Applications for funding from the West Rotoiti Fire Unit and the Lake Rotoiti Classic & Wooden Boat Association have been received and funding has been approved in both cases.

Funding is however limited and can only be distributed as available. Trust income depends entirely on donations and investments. Apart from maintaining a website and minimal administration expenses, all donations and income are available for distribution. (See our website at: www.rototicharitabletrust.co.nz)

We commend the work of the Trust to you and invite you to make a donation. (Post to the Trust at P.O.Box 2008, Rotorua 3040). IRD approved Donee receipts for tax rebates will be sent to all who make donations to the Trust. All donations are appreciated.

On behalf of the Trustees, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a bright and prosperous New Year.

HUGH MARSTON (CHAIR) | FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES



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GREETINGS

Denise joins me in thanking you all for your support for my re-election to serve on the Rotorua District Council.

Now that the voting is district wide you now have 12 Councillors and a Mayor to call on and make representations to.

Having been elected a North Ward councillor since 1989 I will continue to advocate for the people from Otaramarae in the north to Rotoma in the east; including Rotoehu, Rotoiti and all the bays in between. Issues facing us that MUST be addressed are:

- Lake Rotorua and its continued degradation
- Crime
- Economic development and growth
- Support for our Industry and Job creators

I wish to congratulate Brentleigh Bond and the elected members of the Rotorua Lakes Community Board for the work they do and their advocacy for lakeside settlements and issues. Cr Hunt is replaced by Cr Maggie Bentley who joins Cr Dave Donaldson as Council's representatives on the Board.

Merry Xmas and have a wonderful 2011.

CHARLES W. STURT | ROTORUA DISTRICT COUNCILLOR
(MOBILE 0274 0836-306)

TANGIBLE BENEFITS FOR LAKE WATER QUALITY

As permanent residents of Lake Rotoiti brace for the summer influx of holiday home owners and renters accompanied by the sound of lawnmowers and outboard motors can I record the appreciation of Board Members and Councillors for those ratepayers who completed a 'Recreational Pressure on the Rotorua Lakes' submission.

This exercise initiated by the Rotorua Lakes Community Board has informed a comprehensive submission to RDC's Annual Plan for 2011/12 and beyond to the next 10-year plan.

Residents at the western end of the lake face continued inconvenience over the coming months as the Okere-Whangamarino sewerage scheme is completed but the experience at Lake Okareka has been that this exercise will be well worthwhile in terms of hassle-free wastewater disposal with tangible benefits for lake water quality.

Finally I wish all Lake Rotoiti residents a merry Christmas and safe and prosperous New Year. Hope to see you at the LRCA AGM.

DAVE DONALDSON

KIA ORA

During my first term on Council I was fortunate to represent RDC on the Rotorua Lakes Community Board. During those three years I gained a real insight into the issues affecting the Te Arawa Lakes. I have now been selected to represent council on the Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group. I am pleased to continue my close association with the lakes communities in my new role.

As a lakeside resident for the past 18 years I know how the summer temperatures can adversely affect our lakes. I am thankful that work continues behind the scenes monitoring, analysing and recording the various markers of lake health.

I look forward to the opportunities ahead of us in 2011 and would like to thank all those people who are passionately involved in improving lakes water quality now and for the generations ahead. Best wishes for a safe and enjoyable holiday season on and around our fabulous lakes.

CR KAREN HUNT | ROTORUA DISTRICT COUNCILLOR
PH 07 349 3230 027 495 7547 | crkarenhunt.blogspot.com

UPDATE FROM TODD MCCLAY MP FOR ROTORUA

Firstly my congratulations to you all for your contribution to Lake Rotoiti being named as the body of water with the greatest improvement in water quality in the recent Status and Trends 2010 Report on Lake Water Quality in New Zealand. This is a fantastic achievement and shows what can be done when communities work together.

Another landmark report, issued from the Land and Water Forum was released in September. This report provides a robust framework for moving the freshwater management issue forward. The 53 recommendations pose major challenges that the Government will need to consider.

The next step involves three strands:

1. The Government has agreed to fund the Forum to open up a public engagement on their report.
2. There will be dialogue through the Iwi Leaders Group on the Forum's proposals and on the broader issues for iwi over freshwater.
3. The Government have asked officials to report and advice on the recommendations in the report.

There is a huge amount to digest from the Forum's year-long work. The Government are committed to timely progress, and also believe the way forward is in building a broader consensus on water reform.

HAWEA VERCOE

I was honoured to be part of the Memorial celebrations for Hawea Vercoe held recently at Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Rotoiti The Wairua and Aroha, for the man who had led this school from being close to closure to now being held in such high regard as a school, was evident. It was wonderful to see the impression he had made on the young men and women through their development and education. His legacy will endure through these young people.

The blessing of the portable floating wetland, which is designed to nutrient strip the waterways, is an appropriate tribute to one who thought outside the square and challenged people to think.

To have met such a tragic end in the prime of his life was reflected in the sadness and memory the young people have of him. Rest in peace my friend.

CR. CHARLES STURT

LAKE ROTOITI FISHING REPORT

Opening Day definitely proved to be a mixed bag for local anglers.

Despite increased liberations into Lake Rotoiti and consistent morning fishing, the afternoon session certainly slowed for most. The Ohau Channel didn't fire as well as last season, although most anglers caught a few fish.

With the rapid rise in surface temperature, watch for the development of a thermocline in the 20-25 metre range. This variation in temperature kicks in early December and remains until April/May.

Fish size and condition factors continue to impress both local and international anglers, with some great bursts of action over the past few months.

Jigging or ledgering are providing the best results and anglers adopting this technique continue to produce the best strike rates.

For further information contact:

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CAUGHT BY MATTY DAVIS

FISH & GAME

SUMMER SURVEYS

Fish & Game staff will again be out over the summer period undertaking our fishery creel surveys and checking licences. It's always great to catch up with you all out on the water and see how things are going so we will look forward to bumping into you.

Fish & Game are assisting the University of Waikato with PhD work looking at trout and smelt and their interactions within Rotoiti. You may see our staff helping to collect smelt around the shore or be involved already with providing trout gut samples from fish that you have caught.

TROUT LIBERATIONS

Fish & Game have recently completed the spring (September) liberations to Rotoiti for the 2010 year. This year we have increased the number of fish released during spring from 10,500 to 13,500

fish. In total we are now liberating 28,500 yearling rainbows per season into the lake. We are doing this because of greater angler usage of the lake in recent years and attempting to lift the winter shoreline angler success rate. Our winter surveys show that a greater proportion of spring released fish show up in the winter catch which we can tell through tags and fin clips.

A change to regulations this season that all of you should be aware of is that no boats will be allowed to fish within the confines of the East and West points of Ruato Bay extending offshore 200m from the 1st of April. This again is a directive from the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council to improve shoreline success in the winter period. We have not yet installed landmark poles within the area. You can read more about this below.

MATT OSBORNE,

FISH & GAME NZ. EASTERN REGION

REGULATION CHANGES FOR THE 2010-2011 SEASON:

The Eastern Fish & Game Council annually reviews the Anglers Notice to set regulations each year. Regulations need to ensure the sustainability of the fishery without unnecessarily decreasing angler opportunity. This coming season there have been a few changes to simplify some of the rules and also try and manage for an improved catch rate for Rotoiti shoreline anglers.

As from 1 April 2011 it will be prohibited to fish from a boat in the area between the eastern and western points of Ruato Bay on Lake Rotoiti each autumn. The area will be marked on the shore by landmarks and extend 200m northwards out into the lake. Any fishing from a boat within this area, by trolling, jigging or any other method is prohibited from 1 April until 30 September. This regulation will be trialed for several seasons to attempt to reduce

the autumn harvest of fish that congregate off Ruato Bay before coming into the shoreline. All other areas of Lake Rotoiti will remain open for boat anglers until the usual closing at the end of June.

Using set rods in rod holders was only permitted for those trolling but now anyone fishing from a boat, whether trolling or anchored, will be able to use a rod in a rod holder. The prohibition on using weights for trolled lures in Lake Waikaremoana has also been removed. Anglers fishing on this lake however are still not permitted to use lead or metal cored lines, downriggers or paravanes.

All anglers should make sure they get a copy of the regulations with their licence and review what rules apply to their fishing area.

If you need to clarify any rules just give the Eastern Fish & Game office a call on 07 357 5501.

ROTORUA HARBOURMASTER: **UPDATE**

With the warmer summer weather, more people are out and about in their boats and kayaks, or swimming and generally enjoying the lake. As users of the lake, everyone should be aware of the basic rules regarding water safety and the safe use of water craft.

Lake Rotoiti is fortunate to have five volunteer lake wardens who have agreed to give up some of their time to keep our lake and its users safe. In addition, the Rotorua Lakes Harbourmaster team will be

increasing the number of patrols on all the lakes this summer; therefore expect to see the team out on the lakes at random times and on a variety of vessels.

REMEMBER:

The yellow 5 knots buoys dotted around the lake means your speed must not exceed more than 5 knots within 200m of the shore (i.e. the 5 knot rule applies).

Life jackets are legally required on all boats

and must be the right size to be of any use. Make sure your children's lifejackets are the right size for them and are properly fastened. You must all wear a lifejacket when in rough water or in adverse weather conditions.

In the meantime stay safe on the water and keep your alcohol intake to a minimum.

PERERIKA MAKIHA

HARBOURMASTER - ROTORUA LAKES

ROTORUA LAKES PROGRAMME UPDATE

ROTOITI:

The Ohau diversion wall continues to protect Lake Rotoiti from the impact of Lake Rotorua water. Sewage reticulation is continuing around the lake with the commencement of the sewage scheme for Otaramarae, Okere and Whangamarino commencing in October this year. Further planning work by Rotorua District Council is taking place to advance reticulation and treatment of waste water from the eastern end of Rotoiti. It is planned that this will link with Rotoma and possibly Rotoehu.

ROTORUA:

Works continue on Lake Rotorua in compliance with the action plan to implement projects to ultimately recover the lake. So far we have completed two phosphorus locking plants and recently commissioned the pilot de-nitrification plant at Tikitere. Sediment treatment research is continuing with trials into the use of various capping agents to lock phosphorus on the bed of the lake, as well as aeration another technique that can be used to enhance natural processes to prevent the release of nutrients.

ROTOEHU AND ROTOITI FLOATING WETLANDS:

The construction of the phosphorus locking plant at Rotoehu is nearly complete and once operational it will remove about 700 kg of phosphorus annually, nearly the total phosphorus reduction target for the lake. The floating wetland trial based

at Rotoehu on the Tautara-Matawhaura Farm has been completed and shows that floating wetlands are an effective means of reducing nitrogen from natural waters. This links with the recently established floating wetland on Rotoiti, in conjunction with the Rotoiti Kura. The idea of this wetland was initiated by the Late Councillor Hawea Vercoe, and after his passing has been continued to by Te Arawa Lakes Trust and Bay of Plenty Regional Council. Community support for the floating wetlands has been strong, with this being the second major floating wetland on Rotoiti. The first one has been adopted by Taheke Marae with the assistance of Hakopa Paul.



AQUATIC PEST ISSUES

Land Information New Zealand's Aquatic Weedspraying for the Rotorua Lakes is due to start on 6 December. As with past years, boat ramp areas are the first areas being targeted; this is to help keep these areas free from weed to stop the spread of weed between lakes. Larger areas are being sprayed in Okawa bay and at Kawaha point, where these weed beds have caused issues with stranded weed.

The Bay of Plenty Regional Council's programme of Weed Cordon installation at Rotorua lakes boat ramps is continuing. The highest-priority Lake for protection, Lake Rotoma, now has two cordons installed. A further cordon will be installed at the Okataina boat ramp during February. The cordons act as a barrier to stop weed fragments drifting away from the immediate area around the boat ramp, and establishing new infestations in the Lake.

Two students will be carrying out aquatic pest advocacy over the summer break. They will be out and about at the regions' lakes and waterways distributing material to advise lake users to Check Clean and Dry to stop the spread of Didymo and other aquatic pests. Although expanding its range in the South Island, Didymo has still not been found in the North Island.

Early growths of Hornwort are booming in Lake Rotoehu. This growth is earlier than in past years and is an indication that this lake may be heavily infested this season. Harvesting for nutrient management in this lake is planned to start in the New Year when the weed growth has peaked.

LAND MANAGEMENT UPDATE



The approach to Okere Falls has been improved by the Lake Rotoiti Care Group, led by Jan Wilkins. The removal of pest plants and replacement with native species was supported by Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

PIKIAO RUGBY LEAGUE NEWS UPDATE

Kia Ora, 2010 has been a very successful year for our school boy competition led by the very hard working Leesa Haimonia and all her coaching and management team. We are now looking to increase our teams which include those aged from 5 years to 15 years. Please contact Leesa (07 362 4828) if you have some budding young talent in your household. Our Premiership team was also very successful making the Major Semi-finals only to lose by 3 points.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our community to come and enjoy our club facilities in Takinga Street.

In concluding, we would like to acknowledge the passing of our club kaumatua Whakarewa Hunihuni and one of our Club's greatest players Gundy Huriwai- God Bless. Our thoughts are with you and your families.

Merry Christmas to you all from the Pikiaro Rugby League Committee.



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I have been a bit tardy about communicating with parties whom have assisted in the activities of the group. There has been some work done around the lake mainly by individuals.

More planting was done on roadside near Whangamarino. This area is filling in nicely. It has been sprayed recently.

We have been endeavouring to control the height of the plantings on the highway along from the Store so that residents and motorists can get views of the Lake. In November we noticed that 14 plants had been cut or dug out along the lake shore in an area very close to the Store. This is very disappointing as we are all volunteers with a shared interest in enhancing our surroundings.

I reported this to EBOP. Mel the Field Officer is doing some investigating.

The roadside area at the control gates at Okere is a mess. Some locals are tending the garden by the upper pathway, but the Argentinian Pampas which we sprayed late winter with herbicide has died and is shedding its leaves all over the pathway and grass. I have approached the fire brigade to see if they can burn this for us. The other problem is the severe erosion of the bank from the

roadside down to the river. This area is used by some of the rafting companies to launch their inflatable craft. It receives heavy usage. There are now three tracks worn into the bank which is very unsightly. There are also large pot holes where the vans park.

Forthcoming events.

Mid March - let us have a real clean up of all the plantings. No new planting is planned at present. We do need to maintain what we have.

Recently a small amount of spraying was undertaken further down the lake

It has been noted that a commercial tourist operator has done maintenance work at Whangamoa Point (Picnic Point). This benefits us all.

We still need to have a concerted gorse spraying programme in the winter to stop the encroachment of this weed on the beaches.

Thanks to all the residents who have contributed to the group during the year. I reiterate my statement from previous newsletters please phone me if you have any ideas or concerns. 073624976

JAN WILKINS.

PIKIAO FISHING CLUB


Pikiao Fishing Club has been in existence for over 30 years. Today we have in excess of 35 members.

We run competitions for the Opening, Closing and Easter weekends; competing for trophies gifted by past members.

Every year on the second Sunday of January, four Clubs compete for the Tangaroa Trophy. This year Whaka will be the first to host the competition, then Waikiti, Awahou and finally Pikiao.

This competition was started to entice our young people to enjoy the sport. It has been a great success.

We encourage new members to join our Fishing Club, so if anyone is interested, please contact Hiriti on 07 3624 181



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LAKE ROTOITI CLASSIC & WOODEN BOAT

ACTIVITIES REPORT LRCWB INC

The Lake Rotoiti Classic & Wooden Boat Association Inc had its AGM in June with an average attendance. Subsequent to this meeting Marcus Wilkins was elected to the position of Vice Commodore and Rachael Jamieson as secretary.

The Association held its annual Fishing Weekend at Labour Weekend with a well attended barbecue and prize giving held at the home of Alan and Ronda Clark.

Our next event will be the Poker Run on 2nd January 2011 starting in the Okere Arm adjacent to Buzz Rathbone's home at 2pm. The idea is to follow the lead boat and uplift cards at various stages along the way. The afternoon concludes with an evening barbecue at a chosen beach. This is a fun event for the whole family and everyone is welcome to join in.

On 30th January 2011 (which is the Sunday of Auckland Anniversary weekend) we are holding a Dinghy Day at Wairau Bay. There will be rowing races, Seagull and general outboard motor races (limited to 5hp). If you would like to come along give Robin Sinclair a call on 07 3624643.

The Association's main event is the Annual Classic & Wooden Boats Parade to be held on 5th February 2011 commencing from the Okere

Arm at 10am. There will be a pre parade get together at the Lake Rotoiti Holiday park at Okere on the Friday evening.

The final event for the season will be The Light Parade on the 24th April 2011 – with boats bedecked with lights this is a spectacle worth seeing.

To take part in the parade or any of our other activities you must be a member of the LRCWB Association so if you would like to join the Association give our secretary Rachael Jamieson a call on 07 3462250 and she will send out membership and entry forms.

The Association's project involving the installation of composting toilets on 4 beaches around the western end of the lake is now complete – these facilities are for public use – please abide by the rules concerning maintenance and assist with housekeeping. We are now setting our sights on the weed problem that is infesting the lake – there is much concern that apart from a navigation hazard someone could get tangled up in the weed and possibly drown. We ask that you all write and lobby Lakes Water Quality, Rotorua District Council, local MP and anyone else to bring this problem under control.

We are looking forward to another enjoyable season of boating.

CHRIS LAIRD | COMMODORE



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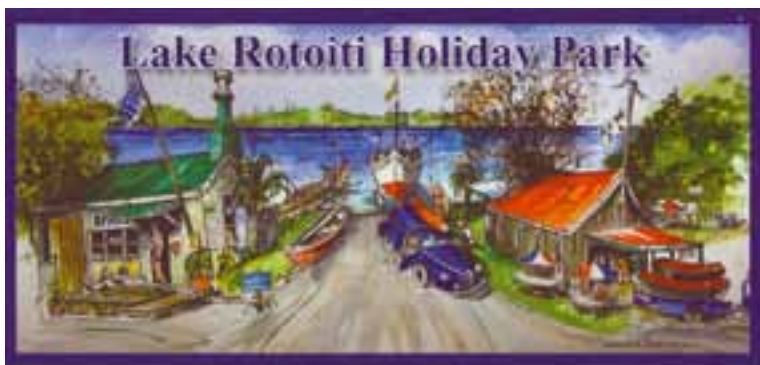
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SUBMISSION TO: THE DRAFT REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR THE BAY OF PLENTY 2011 – 2016

Lake Rotoiti Community Association (LRCA) is pleased to have this opportunity to make submissions to Council's Draft Regional Pest Management Strategy.

LRCA recognises Council's desire to develop strategy for the management of pests in the Bay of Plenty Region.

LAKE WEED

LRCA supports the identification of the following lake weed within "Section D: Containment Pest Rules":

- Egeria Densa
- Hornwort
- Lagarosiphon

and recognises the management objective of reducing their abundance to a level that can be sustained at minimal cost. LRCA commends Council's commitment towards the prevention of these lake weeds spreading to lakes that currently do not contain same. However, at least eight of the twelve lakes in the region are currently infected and there appears to be no strategy formulated as to how containment or eradication in these lakes is to be achieved.

The current budget of \$60,000 that Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) has for weed spraying is largely ineffectual. LRCA acknowledges that BOPRC is carrying out harvesting of lake weed in Lake Rotoehu and Okawa Bay, Lake Rotoiti, under an environmental budget to remove nutrients from the water column. However, the Draft Regional Pest Management Strategy does not appear to contain any management plan to address amenity values and health and safety issues for the Te Arawa Lakes.

LRCA wishes to submit that:

1. BOPRC establishes which bodies are responsible for managing the containment of pest plants in the Te Arawa Lakes and that policies and plans be put in place to hold them accountable.
2. Environmental, amenity and health and safety issues be included in the pest plant management programme for the twelve Te Arawa lakes.

LRCA fully supports the submissions made in respect of lake weed that have been made by the Rotorua Lakes Community Board.

GORSE

Section D: Containment of pest plant rules (page 19)

LRCA believes that gorse eradication needs to be seriously undertaken in the Te Arawa Lakes' catchments and expresses deep concern that the Plan's focus is only for Lakes Okareka and Rotorua. Considerable gorse concentrations exist in the catchments of other Te Arawa lakes.

Gorse is known to leach nitrogen and during autumn and winter such leaching can reach 50 kgs per hectare per year. Deterioration in water quality is of substantial concern throughout the Te Arawa Lakes region and LRCA recognises that gorse is a contributor to this problem.


LRCA believes the case for gorse control is persuasive and we submit:

- (3) That all lakes catchments should be included in the D(3)(a) category.

LRCA seeks the opportunity to speak to its submission and requests that this takes place at a Rotorua location.

HILARY PRIOR | CHAIRPERSON

Give us an Auditor or give us your gold



The last newsletter told of our need of an Auditor to sign off the annual accounts. It asked for a volunteer(s) from amongst our accounting oriented members. The silence has been deafening.

We would have been in a bind for this year's (30th September 2010) audit but for a favour called in by your treasurer, from an auditor acquaintance with hardly a skerrick of relationship with the lake, but who has magnanimously audited the accounts at no-charge.

This cannot continue, the membership needs to produce an honorary auditor from their midst, or vote to accept commercial auditing costs for next year.

The audit is very simple. Bring your auditor candidates to the AGM, let them take a look at the tabled accounts, they will see the simplicity. Then nominate one or several of them for the job. Our ultimate bank balance will benefit.



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LRCA CONTACT DETAILS

All written correspondence should be sent to:

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