



# LAKE ROTOITI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.

## NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2013/14

### CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT DECEMBER 2013

#### ROTOMA WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Phill Thomass gives an update on where this issue now stands. It is hoped that a decision suitable to all can be reached in the timeframe given so that the Ministry of Health funding is still available.

#### TREASURER

Gerald and Sandra Plested have sold their home at Otaramarae and will be leaving the district. This is a very sad loss to our community as Gerald has done an excellent job as Treasurer for LRCA. We are definitely going to miss him and the Committee wishes to thank him for all his hard work.

We need someone to take Gerald's place. Please do get in touch if you have any suggestions as to who might be willing to take on this task.

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held at 10 am on 2nd January 2014 at the Clubrooms of Pikiaro Rugby League Club in Mourea. All are welcome and it is hoped that you will make the effort to attend. Coffee and tea will be served following the meeting. The Minutes for the 2013 AGM are on the LRCA Website.

Please forward any names of individuals who may be prepared to stand for Committee. There is a very small group of us who have been standing year after year. We would be delighted to share some of the workload!

**HILARY PRIOR** | (CHAIRPERSON)

[LRCA@XTRA.CO.NZ](mailto:LRCA@XTRA.CO.NZ)

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LAKE ROTOITI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.

To be held at 10 am on Thursday 2nd January 2014 at the Clubrooms of the Pikiaro Rugby League Club, Mourea.

All are welcome. Tea and coffee will be served. The Agenda is on the LRCA website. [www.rotaiti.co.nz](http://www.rotaiti.co.nz)

Her Worship the Mayor Steve Chadwick JP will address the meeting and understands our concerns about lake structures

### COMMUNITY BOARD MEETINGS

Meeting dates and venues are on the RDC website [www.rdc.govt.nz](http://www.rdc.govt.nz)

**LRCA WEBSITE:** [www.rotaiti.co.nz](http://www.rotaiti.co.nz)

# FISH & GAME NEWS

## DECEMBER 2013

Opening day fishing went very well for Lake Rotoiti anglers. The catch rate recorded was ahead of the last three openings with one fish caught for every four hours effort. Fish size surveyed was down on recent years due to the new liberation strategy undertaken during spring 2012.

Previously, we have released all of the spring fish in one hit (September), but recently undertaken research has shown us that we are likely to get better growth and survival of the juvenile trout if the liberation is spread over a wider timeframe. Winter is a poor time for growth in the lakes and we are safeguarding the hatchery investment by insuring ourselves against the possibility of a delayed winter.

Spring liberations now occur through September, October, November and December. What this means is a proportion of the two-year-old fish have been in the lake up to three months less than the front end of the liberation, therefore they will be smaller and this age group make up the majority of the opening and summer catch. They will continue to grow and catch up to the earlier released fish over the summer.

Next opening (October 2014) will show the full benefit of the staggered autumn liberations – begun in February 2013, with larger fish appearing from February, March, April and May releases.

This year at opening we are really seeing just half of the picture.

Good news for both Rotoiti and Rotorua, trout growth looks to be really improving along with the water quality. Smelt have had a great spawning year in the cleaner water and they are really driving the trout quality we are seeing presently.

The Ohau Channel fishery had a good start to the season, with the second best catch rates surveyors have recorded since monitoring began. A large smelt run occurred through the Ohau Channel during late September and early October which drew the trout in. Some nice fish were landed over the opening.

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.

Don't forget the Ruato Bay Bay boat fishing prohibition rule remains in force for this season. From 1st April, no boats will be allowed to fish within the confines of the East and West points of Ruato Bay (marked by black/ yellow and white landmark poles) extending offshore 200m until the end of the season.

Have a great summer out on the lake, from all the Fish & Game team.

# RUATO BAY ROCKFALL

## SH30 ROADWORKS UPDATE

Since our last newsletter things have been happening on the cliff stabilization at Ruato Bay, even if our infrequent visitors could be forgiven for thinking not quickly enough. The reality is that the traffic lights are still there, and SH 30 is still one lane past the work site.

Originally it was hoped that work would be completed in September, but pre-construction complications and a later than anticipated start date meant that work was only just getting underway then.

However since work commenced, the contractors have been working hard to get the cliff stabilized. Those of us who travel past the site regularly have all at some point sat in our cars at the traffic lights in heavy rain, heater and wipers on, as men hang high above us in their cages suspended from cranes, still working. Added to the difficulties caused by a lot of bad weather, the amount of grout and concrete needing to be injected into the holes drilled through the rock face has far exceeded original estimates. All this has meant that work still continues as we approach Christmas.

If the weather obliges the goal is now to have the mesh up on the cliff and the road open to two lanes by 20th December although the contractors may need to return in the New Year after the holiday period. Rotorua District Council (who are managing the project on behalf of NZ Transport) is well aware of the considerable inconvenience



A SECTION OF MESH AT MANGOREWA, SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH WILL BE USED ON THE RUATO BAY CLIFF

the traffic lights and one-laning cause, especially at peak times and they and the contractors have been working hard to get these works completed. Here's hoping we have good weather for the rest of the month!

PHILL THOMASS

## NEWS FROM WEST ROTOITI RURAL FIRE UNIT IN OKERE FALLS

Due to an electronic glitch last summer's report from the fire station never made it into the mid-year newsletter, so we try again...

Fire Boat: A generous, purpose bound donation by a local resident has seen us take ownership of a Stabi-Craft 1850 Frontier; an aluminium hulled boat fitted with a portable pump that is capable of moving some 400 – 500 litres of water per minute. It can be used to fight boat fires on the lake or vegetation fires on lakeside areas not accessible by road. It also will be available as a first response unit to all other emergencies that may occur on Lake Rotoiti

The boat has been out during training and all crew members are slowly getting familiar with the equipment and using pumps and hoses

in a somewhat unfamiliar environment. It's a great asset for our community and it will serve us well for many years.

Now an update on recent developments: Over the winter we have managed to secure some urgent gear updates through our normal fire budget which has reduced the amount of money we were planning to raise.

We also had fantastic financial support towards the extension of the fire station to house our new boat: Lake Rotoiti Charitable Trust (LRCT), Rotorua Lakes Community Board, and the Wooden Boats Association have each donated \$5000 towards this. Furthermore, LRCT collected nearly \$600 in donations on our behalf. Several smaller donations into our account and donations from filling water

tanks during the summer all added up and while we haven't done a most recent tally we think we may only require another \$4-5000 to start the work.

The plans for the extension have been submitted to RDC for building consent and with another funds application with NZ Community pending we are hopeful that we will be able to start the work later in summer. Thanks very much to all who have contributed so far!!!

As always in this publication I'd like to invite anybody who is interested in joining the fire brigade to make contact. Call Andi Uhl 362 4264.

## UPDATE FROM HON. TODD M<sup>C</sup>CLAY MP FOR ROTORUA

As 2013 comes to an end it is timely to reflect on our achievements over this last year.

It has been an exciting year to be Rotorua's representative in Parliament. As promised, the Government is working hard to deliver better public services and focusing on results – reducing crime, long-term welfare dependency, and educational under-achievement – while supporting families in need.

2013 has seen many successes. In September the Rotorua Education Initiative – Excel Rotorua was officially launched, delivering on election promise to improve educational achievement in the Rotorua electorate. We saw an end to drugs in dairies with the passing of the Psychoactive Substances Bill and put a stop to intimidating behaviour in our communities with the Gang Insignia Ban. These are both good pieces of legislation and I'm glad they have become law making us safer in our homes and in our streets.

I have enjoyed getting out and supporting as many local charities

and community groups as possible this year and will continue to work hard to be available to you as members of our electorate. I very much appreciate being able to spend time meeting and speaking with people on the ground to get a feel for what's happening in our communities.

Next year will be another busy year as we focus on the issues that matter to our community, and for all Kiwis – a stronger economy and more jobs, better frontline health and education services and a safer New Zealand.

If you have an issue or concern you'd like to discuss with me, please feel to contact me at one of my electorate offices:

**Rotorua office** (07) 348 5871 or [rotorua.mp@national.org.nz](mailto:rotorua.mp@national.org.nz),  
**Kawerau office** (07) 323 6487 or [kawerau.mp@national.org.nz](mailto:kawerau.mp@national.org.nz) and  
**Te Puke** (07) 573 7125 or [tepuke.mps@national.org.nz](mailto:tepuke.mps@national.org.nz).

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very happy and relaxed Festive season, and I hope that wherever you go, you get there safely.

## LAKE OKATAINA

Standing for a seat on Bay of Plenty Regional Council western constituency may not have been successful but it was certainly an enlightening experience which allowed me to determine who may be helpful and who may not be so helpful in their roles as Councillors.

I do congratulate Jane Nees and Norm Brunning on their election, and also Arapeta Tahana and Neil Oppatt whom we look forward to working with. I am sure Doug Leeder will be a worthy successor to John Cronin and with his primary industry background we look forward to sharing our concerns during his tenure at the helm.

Both Jane and Neil have pledged their support to overcome the catastrophic occurrence on the shores of Lake Okataina. We will spend time briefing Arapeta (local Maori seat) and Mayor Chadwick and her team at Rotorua District Council about the consequences of DOC's lack of management of the forest surrounds, pests and toxic plants, leaching into waterways and land use options just as we have preached to Jane and Neil, and others.

Some have misinterpreted my concerns regarding the glut of funding

applications being made by the same Researchers and Scientists who have already researched what was researched. My concern is that funds are generally allocated to those most professional and financially able to expend a lot of time preparing pages and more pages (56 pages in an application I have observed) in their quest for both job insurance and more work on projects which could be placed aside in a priority manner. This would allow fledgling hard working and equally professional groups to "have a shot" at other projects like the one we are confronted with at this time at Okataina.

Planting more Pinus Radiata is not the answer. Maybe a tourism orientated bee colony could be part of a preferred land use option. Maybe nurturing existing plots of Manuka for both honey and oil could be an option? Getting rid of the pesky Wallabies is not an option, it is a must!

Meanwhile on the boating front it is vacation time, be safe, be observant and keep your bottoms clean.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS. TOM WALTERS



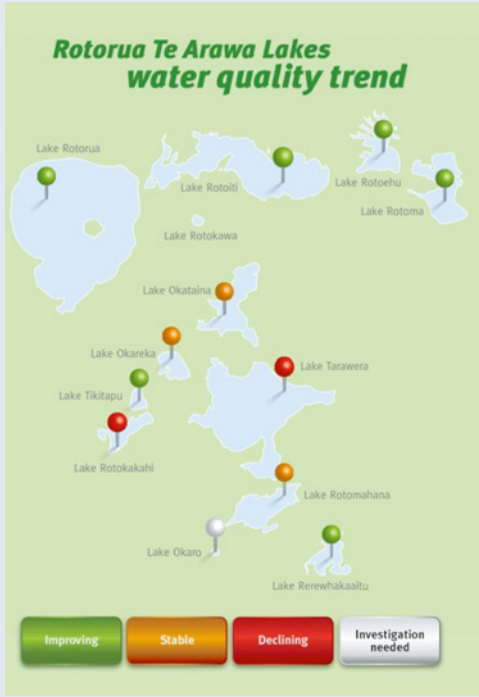
LAKE  
ROTOITI  
MET ITS  
TARGET!



Lake Rotoiti had the best water quality and met its target for the first time since monitoring began in 1991. This shows the success of the Ohau Diversion Wall and sewerage reticulation. This is great news for the community and the programme.

GREAT WATER  
QUALITY RESULTS  
FOR 2012-2013

The long-term trend in six lakes also showed improved water quality and while these results were encouraging, there is still a lot of work to be done on some lakes. Lake Rotorua and Rotoehu have improved significantly. The improvements have been primarily due to our in-lake interventions, climate conditions and on-farm changes. Interventions like alum dosing have been very successful in improving water quality, but it is only buying time in the short term, while we make the long-term changes needed to reduce nutrient losses in the catchment. Lake Rotorua water quality declined slightly from a Trophic Level Index of 4.08 last year to 4.24 this year. With the target of 4.2 this is still a good result. But we can't be complacent and think we have fixed the lake. Significant reductions in the nitrogen load to the lake are required for sustainable improvements in the long-term.



NEW RULES FOR RURAL LAND-USE IN THE  
LAKE ROTORUA CATCHMENT

Rules are being developed to meet the sustainable nitrogen limit set for Lake Rotorua in the proposed Regional Policy Statement. We are working with the Lake Rotorua Stakeholder Advisory Group to develop rules and incentives that provide for sustainable improvements in water quality and a viable rural sector. In September 2013 Council approved the approach to achieve the nitrogen reduction required. The approach is to use an integrated programme of incentive funding and gorse conversion to support the allocation of nitrogen discharge allowances to pastoral landowners in the catchment.



KEY COMPONENTS OF RULES APPROACH

Programme	Nitrogen target	Funding	Actions and Accountability
Rules Programme	140 tonnes	\$5.5* million from incentive fund to help landowners with some of the costs.	Nitrogen Discharge Allowances set for each property. Approved Farm Nutrient Plans in place on all farms by 1 December 2015. Plans must include specific plans for nitrogen reduction. Staged reductions via Farm Nutrient Plans mandated through resource consents. Individual farmer must apply for resource consents by 1 December 2017 Individual farmers obligated to meet nitrogen discharge limit by 1 December 2032
Incentives Programme	100 tonnes	\$40* million	Regional Council accountable to achieve 100 tonne target by 1 December 2022 through incentives scheme.
Gorse Conversion Programme	30 tonnes	Not yet determined.	Regional Council responsible to achieve 30 tonne target in collaboration with farmers and landowners by 1 December 2022 using separate funding.

\*Funding is dependent on Crown funding.

All pastoral properties, large and small, in the Lake Rotorua groundwater catchment will be affected by the rules. The exact ground water catchment is still being determined but it is larger than the catchment that Rule 11 relates to (as this is determined by the surface water catchment). Smaller properties with low nitrogen losses may have simplified rules. This could include simple look-up tables to determine the numbers of livestock that are permitted under the new rules to avoid the more complicated consenting and planning regime.

WHAT'S NEXT IN THE RULE DEVELOPMENT?

There are many issues that need to be worked through and decisions made in the development of the rules and incentives to achieve the required nitrogen reductions for the Lake Rotorua catchment. Staff will continue to work with the Lake Rotorua Stakeholder Advisory Group to develop the draft rules. The draft rules are expected to be ready for consultation and public feedback in May 2014. Following feedback from consultation on the draft rules additional changes will be made to the rules before formal notification in 2015.

ROTORUA  
LAND  
INNOVATION  
CHALLENGE  
LAUNCHED



STRATEGY FOR THE LAKES  
OF THE ROTORUA DISTRICT

The revised Strategy for the Lakes of the Rotorua district was adopted in September 2013. It was developed by a collaborative project team of representatives from the three partner agencies. The community was also involved with various workshops and meetings to capture what the community wants for the lakes. The Strategy retains the vision from the 2000 strategy and sets out goals and outcomes to achieve it. Visit [www.rotorualakes.co.nz](http://www.rotorualakes.co.nz) for more information and to read the Strategy.

TIKITERE  
DE-NITRIFICATION UPDATE



To reach the sustainable nitrogen limit for Lake Rotorua nitrogen from geothermal sources must be removed. A trial plant has been running at Tikitere since 2011. Nitrogen removal from this trial plant was not as high as expected. Early in 2013 an alternative was trialled where locally mined zeolite absorbs the nitrogen from the streams water before it gets to the lake. These small scale trials have been very successful and a medium scale pilot plant is to be built later in the 2013/14 financial year.

AQUATIC PEST UPDATE

Pre-summer surveillance of aquatic pests is underway. The pre summer lakes weed spraying was completed at 20 sites around the Rotorua lakes. These were made up of boat ramps and

A national competition with a top prize of \$20,000 is underway to identify additional land uses for the Lake Rotorua catchment for improved lake water quality. The Rotorua Land Innovation Challenge is about providing alternative options for landowners. Currently Lake Rotorua has too much nitrogen getting to the lake from land-use. To sustainably meet the water quality target set by the community we need to reduce the amount of nitrogen from pastoral land use by around half. But we need to ensure that the outcome for the Rotorua district is a clean lake and

high use vector areas. A total of 18.6 hectares was sprayed around Lake Rotoiti over 10 sites. These included Gisborne Point, Te Ruato Bay, Hauparu Bay, Cherry Bay, Okawa Bay, Otaramarae Boat Ramp, Okere Inlet, Kakaho Bay, Whangamoa Drive and the Hot Springs. Two summer students have been out and about on the Rotorua lakes to help spread the word about "stopping the spread" and the need to "check clean and dry" for freshwater pests.

ROTORUA TE ARAWA LAKES  
PROGRAMME WEBSITE

Want to know more about water quality in our lakes and what actions are being taken to protect them? Then go to the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme website - [www.rotorualakes.co.nz](http://www.rotorualakes.co.nz). The website provides a one-stop shop for all information about our iconic lakes. It covers facts about each lake, a look at all the tools we use to protect and improve water quality and achievements made to date. Make sure you sign-up to receive regular updates so you can stay informed on the progress and actions for our lakes.

SAFETY MESSAGE FROM  
THE HARBOURMASTER

Have fun out on the water this summer but please be responsible and safe – that's the call from Bay of Plenty Regional Council maritime staff. Increased numbers of people using the lakes during the summer months means extra care and vigilance is needed by all water users. Maritime staff and volunteer wardens will be doing their best to keep people safe, but everyone needs to know the rules and be aware of others around them so that we can all enjoy our beautiful lakes safely.

THE RULES

- You must be 15 or older to drive a powered vessel that is capable of travelling faster than 10 knots, including a jet ski
- You must not go faster than five knots:
- Within 50 metres of another vessel or

thriving rural economy. So we want to explore innovative and ground-breaking diversification options for landowners All viable solutions submitted will be shared with landowners and the community to review and potentially implement. Entries for the Rotorua Land Innovation Challenge close 31 March 2014 and must show how the proposed land use solution provides for long-term, measurable nitrogen reductions as well as providing financial data detailing its economic viability. Go to [www.rotorualakes.co.nz](http://www.rotorualakes.co.nz) for more information.

- person in the water
- Within 200 metres of the shore, a dive flag, or any structure
- The operator of any vessel, including a jet ski, must ensure there is a lifejacket of the correct size and fit for each person on board
- You must ensure that your vessel's wake does not cause danger or damage to boats or other water users.
- If you are skiing/towing there must also be an observer who is older than 10 years in the vessel or on the jet ski.
- The person being towed must wear a lifejacket
- You can be fined \$200 for breaching the bylaw.

CHECK YOUR INFLATABLE LIFE JACKETS

Bay of Plenty harbourmasters are urging boaties to ensure their inflatable life jackets are in good working order. There's a great range of personal floatation devices (PFD) available and many people opt for the inflatable types because they are light, easy to wear and don't take up much vessel storage space. But it's very important they are checked regularly and every second year they should be fully serviced by a professional service agent. Have a chat to your supplier about how to check them and what to look for during your own regular checks and about biennial full servicing – they'll be able to send them to an agent on your behalf or certainly point you in the right direction.

MAKE SURE IT FITS

Remember, life jackets can save your life – but only if they are a proper fit. While not compulsory, the wearing of life jackets is encouraged, particularly if you are not a confident or skilled swimmer or are inexperienced in and on the water. Ensuring life jackets are the right fit is vital – a small child can slip out of an adult-sized life jacket if they fall into the water and/or become panicked. Life jackets should fit snugly but without constricting breathing.



## GARDENING NOTES: THE ENEMIES IN THE UNDERGROWTH

In this set of gardening notes we will be looking at some plants that grow very well around the shores of the Rotorua Lakes – too well in fact. Space only permits a look at a few of them, but the ones selected are a real, if largely unrecognized, menace.

**Climbing asparagus** (*Asparagus scandens*) is a climbing plant, related to the asparagus that we enjoy so much during the spring and early summer, but, alas, not edible. This is really running amuck in parts of Okere Falls (and very likely in other lake areas as well). It is a wiry vine, rather prickly to the touch, which climbs up trees and shrubs with its twining stems, smothering other vegetation as it goes. Here is a close-up photo (below). This has the potential to dominate large areas, and it is doing so in this district. It has whitish tuberous roots, small white flowers and orange berries produced through late spring and summer (the berries in the photo have not coloured up yet). Birds distribute these berries, and the seeds in them germinate freely. If there is a clump of this plant anywhere near your garden, expect to see seedlings of this obnoxious weed. It can be killed with Roundup or other glyphosate-based herbicides, dug out or it may be pulled up by hand, making sure all the fleshy roots also come out. For more details of this weed and its control, see: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/threats-and-impacts/weeds/common-weeds-in-new-zealand/climbing-asparagus/>

**Ivy** (*Hedera helix*) clings to trees with its aerial roots and can climb very high indeed. A brute of a thing to get rid of! It also seeds prolifically, once it matures.

**The Chinese jasmine** (*Jasminum polyanthum*) is a very attractive climber, with fragrant white flowers and black fruits that birds love to eat. As a result – hey presto – it spreads though the bush. Best to do away with it. There are other attractive jasmines that don't (as yet) become a nuisance. Getting rid of it is hard work – do it once – properly – and this will take some time.

**Wild Kahili ginger** (*Hedychium gardnerianum*) is attractive, fragrant, non-edible, and a real menace. It has occupied large areas of Northland and Auckland and has the potential to do the same here. Every few years our Regional Council has a 'bit of a go' at ginger, but plants of it can still be seen growing near roads in Okere Falls.

Finally, take a walk up (for example) Te Akau Road and you will see a rich variety of public enemies, including **Mexican daisy** (*Erigeron karvinskianus*), **banana passionfruit** (*Passiflora mollissima*), **loquat** (*Eriobotrya japonica*), **blackberry** (*Rubus fruticosus*), **barberry** (*Berberis*), **Boston fern** (*Nephrolepis*), and **velvet groundsel**

(*Roldana* (aka *Senecio*) petasitis), a shrub to 3 m, large velvety leaves, yellow flowers, spreads by root suckers – exterminate on sight! Most of these plants require persistence to get rid of them, but it can be done. The alternative is that our attractive bush surroundings will eventually become a weedy mess. Google the DoC and Weedbusters websites for more information.

**NICK AND ELIZABETH MILLER** | [NCMILLER@ORCON.NET.NZ](mailto:NCMILLER@ORCON.NET.NZ) 362 4747



## DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

### Facts about kākā

Information about kākā:



NORTH ISLAND KAKA, CLOSE UP OF HEAD, KAPITI ISLAND

Kākā have a brush tongue to take nectar from flowers.

Their strong bill can open the tough cone of the kauri to obtain seeds. They also use their bill as a “third leg” to assist them when climbing trees to reach food.

They make extensive use of their feet to hold food and to hang from branches to reach fruit and flowers.

Their diet includes berries of all kinds, seeds, and the nectar of kōwhai, rātā and flax. They also like grubs and are often seen digging invertebrates from rotten logs.

Kākā play an important role in the forest by pollinating flowers.

Eggs take three weeks to incubate with nestlings remaining in the nest for two months. Young birds often leave the nest before they can fly, making them vulnerable to predators such as stoats and cats.

Size: 45 cm; males 475g, females 425g (North Island kākā); males 575g, females 500g (South Island kākā).

#### Different sub-species

There are two sub-species of kākā (*Nestor meridionalis*): the North Island kākā (*N. m. septentrionalis*), and the South Island kākā (*N. m. meridionalis*). Both sub-species have brown/green feathers with brilliant flashes of orange and scarlet under their wings. The South Island kākā, however, has more vivid colouring and is larger in size.



Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

## AQUATIC PESTS

Xia Stevens is a Summer Student assisting BOPRC with their Aquatic Pests Programme. One of her key roles is to talk to and educate lake users on aquatic pests.

Please do contact Xia should you require information from her. Her email address is [xia.stevens@envbop.govt.nz](mailto:xia.stevens@envbop.govt.nz)

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## Lakes **WATER** **QUALITY** Society

2013 has been a busy year keeping up with the challenges of our lakes. The focus remains on addressing the nutrient loads across the Lake Rotorua catchment. The signing of the Oturoa Agreement with the Rotorua Primary Producers' Collective and Federated Farmers led to the establishment of the Lake Rotorua Catchment Stakeholder Advisory Group which has given the stakeholders a forum to participate in the policy framework for restoring Lake Rotorua. Our local MP, Todd McClay, has been instrumental in bringing about this first in New Zealand to encourage farmers, the councils and the environmentalists (LWQS) to sit down and talk together to solve the problems of how to sustainably farm and have good water quality.

Our committee members, Don Atkinson and Warren Webber, have added constructive and instructive debate to the technical and practical details necessary to find collaborative processes for nutrient management. Progress has been made for the areas of gorse eradication, nutrient reductions, options for nitrogen trading and a framework for allocating nitrogen to land use activities.

LWQS agreed to organise and manage a community based workshop to address the future for waste water treatment in the Rotorua catchment. With the considerable experience and symposium management skills of Ian McLean and Warren Webber a 2 day workshop covering the physical inspection of the waste water

treatment plant, the existing spraying in the Whaka Forest and presentations and debates on the possible solutions and outcomes the community would like to see. There was a surprising level of unanimity across all participating groups and the recognition that spraying into the forest should not go beyond 2021 when the current consent for that process finishes. RDC have a mandate to explore viable waste water treatment alternatives and have agreed to a process to work with the community to find a lasting solution built on worldwide leading technologies that now exist.

Following a final period of consultation from April 22 through to May 17 2013 the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group approved on 27 September 2013 the vision and strategy for the lakes of the Rotorua district, which is:

*"The Lakes of the Rotorua district and their catchments are preserved and protected for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations, while recognising and providing for the traditional relationship of Te Arawa with their ancestral lakes."*

The published document is available on line via the Rotorua Te Arawa Lake Programme website and by hard copy at each of the three partner organisations BOPRC, RDC and Te Arawa Lakes Trust.

The LWQS AGM will be held at 10.00am on Monday 27 January 2014 at the Pikiaro Rugby League club rooms in Mourea, Lake Rotoiti.



# LAKE ROTOITI WOODEN & CLASSIC BOAT ASSOCIATION

We have a great and enthusiastic committee with some new faces and some with vast experience.

Brentleigh Bond, although now residing down South, has kindly offered to continue as our treasurer – thank you Brentleigh!

Our first function for the year was the Labour Weekend fishing competition, 21 fishermen entered and 18 fish were weighed in on Sunday afternoon.

Brian and Faye Stamp were in charge of the weigh-in and did an excellent job, much appreciated thanks!!

Results:

- Jon Dustin had the heaviest fish at 1.8kg (3lb15oz)
- Jon also had the best condition fish with a factor of 58.8
- Bill Fowler had the next best fish with a factor of 57.1
- Bill also caught the most fish as an individual
- Jill Cossey won the ladies fishing prize
- Oscar Halliwell won the Junior fishing prize with a 1.38kg fish
- Elva's crew of Jill and Grant Cossey and Lyle Jones caught the most



fish for any boat, they caught 4 between them.

61 people attended the BBQ at the weigh in at Fraser's place and many took the opportunity to take a cruise around the Okere Arm in Fraser's new boat – finally launched after five years of work at Tony Mitchell's boat yard.

Up and coming events:-

- **4th January 2014** -Poker Run. Meet in the Okere Arm at 3.30pm for a 4pm start. Please note this event is open to all classes of boats(they don't have to be wooden or classic). Also please understand that you don't have to get off your boat to collect your hand of cards. This activity will be followed by a BBQ/picnic (BYO) at Wairau Bay at 6pm. People are welcome just to come for the picnic/BBQ if they desire. There will be a BBQ at Wairau Bay for use.
- **11th January 2014** - Dinghy Day (both Seagull and rowing races). Registration at 10.30am for 11 am start. At Wairau Bay, but if winds unfavourable it will be moved to Whangamoa Point
- **8th February 2014** -Wooden and Classic Boat Parade, preceded the night before by the BBQ at the Motor camp

FRASER WILSON | COMMODORE

# LAKE ROTOITI HISTORY

**OKERE**  
**RIVER AND MAJOR OUTLET FROM TE ROTOITI, FREQUENTLY REFERED TO AS THE KAITUNA RIVER. THE RIVER IS PROPERLY KNOWN AS THE OKERE FROM ITS LAKE OUTLET AS FAR DOWNSTREAM AS KOHANGAKAEAEA (PARIHAUA).**

Because it provided a rich source of eels, birds and other products, ownership and rights to the river were jealously guarded and disagreements were frequent.

A major dispute arose during the days of Te Ponui, who occupied Rangiharona Pa (lying close to SH33 Rangiharona eventually became an urupa and then a cemetery reserve, which it still is). At one time he arranged for a handsome gift of food for Te Taero (of Mourea). Te Taero believed he had also been given title to land bordering the Okere River.

Soon after Te Ponui travelled down the river with some of his Ngati Hinekiri people to gather food. In capturing shags from the rookeries, disturbed birds flew upriver and were seen. Believing there were trespassers two men went to Mourea and reported the matter. Te Taero decided to send a party to stop this poaching. They went first to Onepungawha where they found a woman called Waimahea. She admitted it was Te Ponui who was on the river, and was then killed by Te Taero. Te Taero's party then went to Pararaurekau where they found an old man Takina working in his kumera plantation. He escaped and ran back up to Rangiharona Pa. Te Taero went further down the river to attack Te Ponui and his people at Parihaua.

The attack was launched but Te Ponui deliberately retreated up the river drawing Te Taero after him. He was confident he would find support from his people at Rangiharona Pa and was not disappointed. Warned by Takina, a large group had assembled, causing Te Taero to flee along the lake edge towards Mourea. Te Ponui and Ngati Hinekiri followed and caught up with Te Taero at Otamanui. Te Ponui challenged Te Taero to personal combat. They fought until Te Taero was knocked down and Te Ponui prepared to kill him. However, he desisted and declared that Te Taero was to remain west of Otamanui from that time.



TOURIST PARTIES REGULARLY VISITED TUTEA'S CAVES AND WATERFALL ON THE OKERE RIVER ONCE ACCESS WAS PROVIDED IN 1907. THIS GROUP WAS PHOTOGRAPHED IN 1914"

In later years, with the number of Europeans travelling inland, a ferry service was established, crossing from Te Taheke to Maraetakaroro. This was in 1859, and Te Hareti and his Ngati Makino people maintained the service until 1872 when a bridge was constructed. Te Hareti was appointed caretaker of the bridge.

Work on the construction of an electric generating plant near the top of Okere River in the late 1890s drew many interested people. As a result the locals under Te Hareti and Te Tauhu made a road to the site and erected a toll gate to collect fees from visitors. The income was quite substantial, but arguments regarding its dispersal ultimately led to legal proceedings that were, however, finally abandoned.

A burial cave named Te Huahua was situated at the point where excavations began for construction of the generator house beside the river. It was where Mango and his descendants down to Huiterangiora had been interred. Whanarere removed many of these remains, but left those of Huiterangiora. However, as work commenced at the site his son Hareti took the bones of Huiterangiora to Kakanui (Taheke) where they were buried together with those of Peeti ,Hareti's sister.

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# RDC RATES – AN UPDATE

We have previously reported our continuing efforts to maintain dialogue with RDC in seeking changes towards a fairer and more equitable rating policy for rural residential ratepayers, and in particular those such as ourselves living in lakeside communities. This becomes even more relevant given current Council intentions of removing all differentials within the next several years.

Over the past year, Council staff, along with a number of Councillors have met with the Lakes Community Board and LRCA representatives to discuss and debate various options essentially revolving around more robust targeting across all Council activities and cost centres. Whilst we accept that there will always be a measure of subjectivity around rating, it is our contention that without differentials every endeavour should be made to ensure that all costs are fairly allocated to the various ratepaying sectors in proportion to their derived benefits.

So far, these discussions have resulted in several meaningful proposals being put forward for further evaluation. Whilst there has been some significant recent changing of the guard within Council following the induction of the newly elected Mayor, Councillors, Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer, we are optimistic that ongoing progress can be made. We are meeting again with Council in the near future in the hope that we might advance some of the current proposals.

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# ROTORUA GARDEN FESTIVAL

The Rotorua Garden Festival happens every second year and is an opportunity to showcase the many wonderful gardens right across the district. This year the 42 gardens were in Reporoa and the Waikite Valley, across the city and around the environs of Lake Rotorua and Lake Rotoiti. Rotorua has an excellent climate and porous soil for gardening and rhododendrons, maples, viburnums, kalmias, cornus (dogwoods), hostas and irises all do very well.

This spring has provided the ideal plant growing conditions and the early warmth and windless days of the weeks leading up to 15 - 17 November set the scene for our beautiful gardens. Over 1,000 people spent the three days visiting the many gardens. Those visitors from out of town discovered some of the best kept secrets of Rotorua. The garden festival's main purpose is to show the beautiful environment we live in and three perfect days of weather meant that Rotorua was at its best.

Lake Rotoiti has three very special gardens around the Okere Falls area. Many of you will have seen the very colourful garden whose gate is beside the bridge near the Okere Store. Rae Kivell and her husband moved there over 18 years ago to a steep hillside section of scrub, bracken fern and blackberry which falls down into the Kaituna River. In a little tropical climate of its own, the garden has been a labour of love. It is jam packed with a mass of bold plantings and many rare species, a plant-lover's paradise. Water features abound and the sound of the roaring Kaituna is ever present. Rae herself is an inspiration to any gardener, into her 80s, but moves up and down the many sloping paths like a spring chicken.

Over the last few years many local Rotoiti

residents will have noted with interest the changing shape of the point down opposite the Okere Store. Once known as Hellabys' Point, with an attractive brown house with white windows, surrounded by magnificent trees, it was a holiday home of the R & W Hellaby family for many years. However, in the last six years there has been a total change. Now known as The Pavilions, a modern glass and stone house has replaced the old cottage, nestled in amongst the many trees that have been retained, looking out majestically to the Okere Arm. A matching cottage behind is set in the formal surrounds of clipped hornbeam hedges, camellias and uplifted original trees. An imposing bare trunk structure is lit up at night along with the native and exotic trees which drift down the hill to the lake. Well placed boulders mix

with maples, grasses and ornamentals in the various paths down to the water and the island hens' house on the point.

The third garden is at the end of Te Weta Bay, a hidden bay on the other side of the Te Akau arm. John and Ann Green purchased it 20 years ago as a small holiday bach with some chestnuts in a paddock, a few kiwi fruit vines and pine trees. Gradually family projects created the paths and developed the different areas into the large well-manicured garden of different rooms of colour and variation of plants and textures that it is today with sweeping expanses of lush lawns and a few hens scratching in the undergrowth. Halfway through the projects, the children left, the bach was pulled down and a new house to live in full time was built. A very peaceful little piece of paradise on Lake Rotoiti.

\$15,000 profit made from the festival is going to the Bay Trust Rescue Helicopter.



## EASTERN ROTOITI – ROTOMA SEWERAGE SCHEME UPDATE – DECEMBER 2013

The Eastern Rotoiti-Rotoma sewerage scheme has been in limbo since RDC surrendered the Consent for a WWTP at Rotoma after an appeal in the Environment Court, and then issues arose for RDC with the WWTP in Rotorua itself. As a way forward appears to have been found to work towards resolving those issues, RDC has now restarted work on the Rotoiti-Rotoma scheme.

This time round RDC is engaging with the Community from the start, which hopefully will mean widespread buy-in when a plan is developed. The first step of this process was to establish a Steering Group whose members represent Iwi, Community and Ratepayer Associations, Ministry of Health, the Rotorua Lakes Community Board, Regional Council and District Council.

RDC is starting with "a clean page" look at the type of scheme that should be built, and the aim of the Steering Group is to select the preferred option from those presented to and by it (with ongoing feedback from their communities) that will provide us with a feasible and affordable scheme acceptable to all parties. I use the term scheme for convenience; however the Steering Group will be looking at a wide range of options including separate solutions for distinct areas as well as one scheme combining all areas.

Expiration of the funding from the Ministry of Health (for Rotoma) is the determining factor for a target completion date by 2017. Working back from this the Steering Group has a little under 12 months to make a recommendation to Council on what the scheme (or schemes) will entail. I know that it perhaps seems a long time, but the Group will be looking at the options in reasonable detail, and there are many issues to consider which will need to be investigated between meetings and presented back to the Group, so it is actually a tight timeframe.

Once a scheme has been decided on it will be put out for public consultation. Following that detailed plans will be drawn up, the scheme needs to be consented and construction put out to tender.

As a long time resident, I'm aware that our scheme seems to be forever somewhere around three years away! I think it was originally meant to be in place by 2006. However I think the really positive thing this time round is that RDC is engaging in a meaningful way with all the communities at the start of the project, rather than imposing something on us. Hopefully this will mean that finally in three years we will all actually have a scheme in place.

**PHILL THOMASS**

## ROTORUA LAKES COMMUNITY BOARD

The recent Local Body Elections saw for the first time a contested election for the Rotorua Lakes Community Board, with 6 candidates standing for 4 places. The successful candidates were Geoff Palmer (re-elected), Leo Meharry (re-elected), Phill Thomass, and John Dyer. As well as the 4 elected members the Board has 2 members appointed by Council. They are Peter Bentley and Rob Kent.

With four of the six Board members being first-time elected members and councillors, we are fortunate to have the experience and wisdom of Geoff Palmer to guide us as Chair, with Leo Meharry supporting him as Deputy Chair.

While all on the Community Board swear to represent and act on behalf of the whole Rotorua Lakes Community area, we are pleased that the elected members all have close ties to a specific Lake – Geoff to Okareka, John to Tarawera, Leo to Rotoma and Phill to Rotoiti. This should give the Board a good ability to reflect local issues from each area, as well as promoting to Council concerns held by the whole community. Of course if you have issues you'd like to raise with the Community Board you are welcome to contact any member of the Board.

The election of a new Mayor for Rotorua, along with a new CFO and recently appointed CEO has meant a number of changes at Council, which is currently in the process of engaging with the Rotorua community at large to get feedback on the new 'Rotorua 2030 Vision' that the Mayor and Councillors have been working hard on since the elections. This increased focus on engagement means that the Lakes Community Board is hopeful that our role in working with Council to represent our Lakes Community will continue to increase.

As meeting dates for 2014 have not yet been finalised for either Council or Community Board we are not able to publish these at this time, however they will be available on the RDC website ([www.rdc.govt.nz](http://www.rdc.govt.nz)) and also on LRCA's website ([www.rotoiti.co.nz](http://www.rotoiti.co.nz)) once they are confirmed. The Boards initial meeting in 2014 will be on February 13th at 7pm. Once again please check the website for the meeting's location. There is time set aside for a public forum at the start of each meeting, and we encourage you to come along. If you are wanting to talk to the meeting it is helpful if you can give us details of what you would like to speak about a few days prior to the meeting. This enables us to be better prepared, and often means that appropriate Council staff can also attend. You can contact any Community Board member to let us know what you'd like to raise.

**PHILL THOMASS**

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# ROB KENT

Greetings to all LRCA members. I am honoured to have been appointed to your Lakes Community Board, and look forward to working with you all towards the betterment of our lakeside communities, lifestyles and environment. A long-time sailor, and fisherman, I know the unbeatable value of local knowledge, and years of experience. I see this as important input to council's new Rotorua 2030 Vision objectives of "Unspoilt Environment" protecting our lakes, "Outstanding Places to Play" promoting recreational opportunities, and creating a "Resilient Community" of inclusive, liveable and safe neighbourhoods.

As a District Councillor I am committed to bringing a cost effective and efficient approach to all aspects of council operations, and the demise of red-tape. The beginnings of this happening can be seen in our key short term 2016 objective: *"Sustainable infrastructure and affordable, effective council services"*.

I look forward to working with you, and wish you all a happy and safe festive season.

**ROB KENT**  
COUNCILLOR, ROTORUA DISTRICT COUNCIL

# PETER BENTLEY

Continuing to improve our lakes water quality is a priority of mine. This may well mean that our farming and industrial businesses will have to reconsider/reassess their working practices.

I have a little experience with farming on the edge of a lake, my father had a dairy farm at Rerewhakaaitu where, in 1959, the lake was our biggest water trough. My goodness, how that mindset has changed.

My belief now is that farmers are becoming our greatest conversationalists. They know that unless they find solutions to existing problems councils and government will legislate which is probably not in farmers' best interest.

Consultation and information sharing is the key to improving our lakes water quality.

I look forward to my involvement with the Lakes Community Board and continuing with the good work they have started.

**PETER BENTLEY**  
COUNCILLOR, ROTORUA DISTRICT COUNCIL

# WEED SPRAYING ON LAKE ROTOITI

- Boat based aquatic weed spraying commenced on 25th November 2013 and the following areas are being sprayed on Lake Rotoiti. Control at these sites will be subject to suitable water, weather and weed conditions
- Gisborne Point
  - Te Ruato Bay
  - Hauparu Bay
  - Cherry Bay
  - Okawa Bay
  - Otaramarae Boat Ramp
  - Okere Inlet
  - Kakaho Bay
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# WEST ROTOITI CARE GROUP

Because of recent rains and the ensuing growth, there is work to be done! There are several local residents who work away in several areas, maintaining, mowing and spraying. The roadside plantings just past the Okere Bridge towards the store are constantly monitored and trimmed to maintain driver vision on that particular bend in the road. I notice there is the odd gorse bush growing down the bank out of reach of most of the regular group workers. We will need to address this, possibly by calling in some young able bodied men to assist in the eradication....do we have a volunteer please? There was a flurry of activity last month with the clearing of the

# FISHING LAKE ROTOITI

Opening Day produced some top results for Rotoiti anglers with Fish & Game reporting the catch rate better than last year.

The staggered release option is clearly working with two-year old fish – Spring liberation – about the same size and weight as last season.

Hatchery fish are normally released in May (Autumn) and September (Spring). According to recent research, colder temperatures have affected survival rates. Seasonal weather conditions and variations have a bearing on liberations so in an effort to address survival rates Fish & Game spread releases over a four month period.

Due to favoured growing conditions it is expected more fish will have survived, consequently the catch rate this Summer should be higher than previous seasons.

As we move deeper into summer the lake surface temperature has shot up 5° to 20° in just a couple of months. The 20m thermocline is starting to develop and this warm water/cold water break has already affected fishing techniques with jigging and deep trolling proving successful from mid morning onwards. Early morning harling is the preferred option and some great results have been achieved over recent weeks.

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roadside area just past the Bridge for the World Rafting championships. This has provided are nice area for rafters and kayakers and has enhanced the entrance to Okere Falls. The Rotorua District Council cleared and safety fenced the end portion of the old Okere Road to provide safe viewing of the river on the South side. We have not undertaken any new plantings. A year ago the RDC planted areas of the roadside past the launching ramp past the Whangamarino School. We have no responsibility for that area.

CONTACT: **JAN WILKINS, 07 362 4976** FOR INFORMATION OR SUGGESTIONS.

# RECIPES

## CHRISTMAS CRAWFORD ROLLS

- Makes 2-4 dozen balls or approx 5 rolls
- 3/4 cup sugar
  - 1 egg
  - 5 oz (142 gms) melted butter
  - 1-1/2 cups dates
  - 1/4 tsp salt
  - 1 tsp vanilla
  - 3 cups cornflakes

Beat the sugar and the egg. Add the melted butter. Add dates, salt and vanilla and boil together for 3-5 minutes stirring constantly. Add cornflakes.

The mixture is extremely hot. Leave for a while and then roll out into rolls using desiccated coconut or crushed nuts as a coating. Chill. Cut into rounds and serve.

## FROZEN LEMON CREAM

- 1 large tin evaporated milk
- 3 tbsp lemon juice (or more!) and grated rind.
- approx 6 digestive biscuits
- 175 g (6 oz) castor sugar
- grated rind of 1 lemon

Chill evaporated milk thoroughly. Whisk until very stiff. Reduce the biscuits to crumbs either by rolling or in a food processor. Sprinkle half on a lightly greased 24 cm (9") flan dish. Gradually beat the sugar into to the evaporated milk, add the lemon juice and grated rind and beat well again. Pour the mixture into the flan dish and add the remaining crumbs on top. Freeze.

Transfer from freezer to fridge about 10 minutes before serving. Decorate with swirls of whipped cream and thin slices of lemon. Individual slices can be cut and served as required



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They will be able to contact you by text/cell phone and/or email in the event of an emergency which could affect your local area, giving you as much warning as possible so you hopefully have time to prepare for the event or leave the area, and provide contact details if you need help. So that you can be advised of any alerts, could you please email or phone one of the local coordinators below ? This is the information they will require:

- Your name and lake house street address?
- A cellphone number which can receive emergency text alerts?
- (or a landline number if not)
- An email address where you can be reached if necessary?

It's as easy as that!

Below is a contact list of local coordinators:

**HINEHOPU AREA:** Phill Thomass pt@thomass.net Phone (0275) 474455. Tamatea Street, Hinehopu

**GISBORNE POINT AREA:** Peter Carr-Smith, pscarrsmith@xtra.co.nz (07) 3627764 (021)970320, 1349A State Highway 30, Gisborne Point

**OTARAMARAE:** Stephanie Cooper, Stephanie.foster@live.com (07) 3624991, (0274) 305100, 32 Otaramarae Road. PO Box 282 Rotorua.

**TUMOANA POINT:** Michael & Geraldine Hale, geraldinehale@gmail.com PO Box 7245, Te Ngae, (07)3456456, (0277)224613

**OKERE AND TE AKAU PENINSULAR:** Keith Smith smudgeskj@slingshot.co.nz (07) 3624 178, (021)2988 428, 8 Foster Road, Okere Falls, RD4 Rotorua

**OKAWA BAY/MOUREA:** Richard Amery, Richard@amery.net (07) 362 4410, (021) 855211, 334 Highway 33, Okawa Bay.



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Lake Wardens: Mark Farrant 0274-599-006  
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Patient enquiries 07-3497977 (Mon-Fri)

### LAKESCARE (URGENT) PHARMACY

Cnr. Arawa & Tutaneke Streets, Rotorua

Phone 07-348 4385

Open 7 days 8.30 am-9.30 pm

### TE NGAE PHARMACY

Redwood Shopping Centre

Phone 07-345 9678

Monday- Friday 8.30 am-5.30 pm

Saturday 9am-1 pm

### DEFIBRILLATOR AT THE FIRE STATION IN OKERE ROAD

### IN A MEDICAL EMERGENCY CALL 111

**AMBULANCE** but also advise the operator of  
the defibrillator on the fire truck. They page  
West Rotoiti Volunteer Fire Unit who could  
be with you a lot faster than an ambulance  
coming from Rotorua.



BETWEEN WATERWAYS

This Newsletter is printed on sustainably  
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## LRCA CONTACT DETAILS

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