

LAKE ROTOITI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC



STOP PRESS

This Newsletter contains an important update on proposed Resource Consent Renewals for the Okere Gates and the Ohau Channel Weir.

Public notification from EBOP is expected in mid-July with a six week period thereafter for public submissions – we encourage your active participation in this process.

LRCA will facilitate a Public Meeting soon after the EBOP notification, with the date and venue to be advised to you by email.

If your email address has changed or you wish to ensure that LRCA has your current contact details, please email us at lrca@xtra.co.nz.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Great strides have been made since our previous newsletter in December 2009. More than 550 people attended the Public Meeting on the 3rd of January this year, reflecting significant community concern with EBOP proposals at that time for significant potential change in the operational management of the Okere Gates. At that Public Meeting the following mandates were passed to, and subsequently endorsed by, our Association

- *That this meeting of the community of Lake Rotoiti seeks the retention of the Okere Falls control gates and that lake levels shall be controlled in all respects as provided in the existing resource consent number 02 4504 dated the 17th January 1997, and managed as per the operating guidelines relating to that consent; and*
- *That this meeting requests the executive committee of the Lake Rotoiti Community Association Inc. to represent the community and to conduct negotiations and proceedings as it sees fit.'*

Since then an LRCA subcommittee has persistently advocated for retention of the Status Quo, and negotiated strongly when obliged to consider variations to the existing consents and operational guidelines. We understand that the latest proposal from EBOP will underpin the notified application in mid-July – whilst not conforming to the Status Quo 'in all respects' the LRCA subcommittee anticipates that the current proposal will meet critical parameters, and may well exceed community expectations.

The current proposal remains subject to water quality modeling at Waikato University, and a comprehensive AEE (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Report will accompany the notified consent application. Further advocacy may be required from LRCA for continuing involvement in the future review of guidelines, but it is **highly probable that LRCA will submit strongly in support of the EBOP application**. We urge members and other community groups to carefully consider the notified documentation and submit as appropriate. The submission process is not just about points on which you may be at variance with the proposal – it is also **critical to express support where that is deserved**.

Despite the fact that effective consultation with all stakeholders was slow in coming during the previous year, recent months have been extremely productive with all the major parties (EBOP, RDC, Te Arawa Lakes Trust, Ngati Pikiao, LRCA and other community groups) coming to the table. Concerns were shared and solutions negotiated for those issues that could be addressed within the parameters of the proposed Consent, with acknowledgement for other concerns which may require consideration outside this consent process. Negotiations were

conducted with empathy and in very good spirit – commonsense and pragmatism has prevailed.

The following pages outline the current proposed Consent Renewal soon to be lodged by Environment Bay of Plenty (EBOP). We are very aware that interpretation of charts and graphs may be difficult for some; if the graphs on the following pages appear complicated, we hope that the one on this page will help to clarify. You may wonder why the Statutory Range no longer appears on the EBOP Proposed Regime below. That is because the legislation behind a Statutory Range is no longer applicable. In layman's terms what the Proposed Consent contains is an Operational Range of 200 mm (8 inches) with an allowance above and below that for 'natural spikes', such as excessive rainfall or drought as we experienced in the late summer this year.

Why the wider Operational Range? Ecological implications have been an important consideration, but since the last Consent was put in place in 1997, there have also been many changes to our lake environment. The most important is a realisation that Lake Rotorua is substantially polluted and its outflow is to our lake. Over the last decade we have seen substantial algal blooms affect many parts of Lake Rotoiti and severely threaten water quality. The completion of the diversion wall from the Ohau Channel delta and down part of the Okere Arm, with sewage reticulation in Okawa Bay and other initiatives, saw dramatic improvements in the health of our lake. However, all good things come at a price. The Ohau Channel is silting up, and the Okere Arm is bearing the brunt of the outflow waters from Lake Rotorua. We need to address these problems and try and help those who live in these areas. The wider Operational Range will give EBOP an improved facility to build storage volume

during the summer months when the lake has its highest recreational usage, and then to 'flush' these areas during the early winter.

We are part of a large community, often with diverse aspirations and needs. The proposed Consent application, we believe, is an extremely sensible and rational compromise designed to satisfy the vast majority of us who live around, benefit from, and play on Lake Rotoiti.

WHAT NEXT?

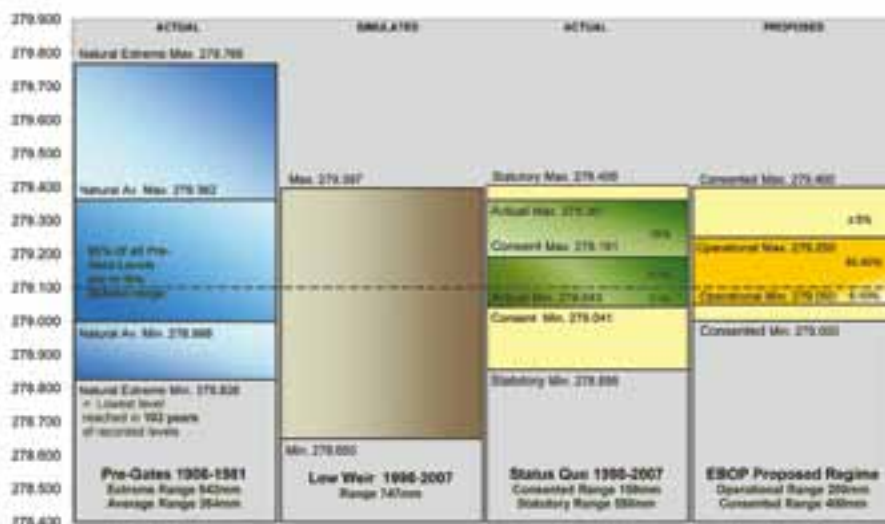
We want to contact as many people as possible in a very short time frame, once the Consent is lodged. Why? We believe we should hold another **Public Meeting** to determine community response to the proposal. We want to make a submission in support of the Consent; we understand that Te Arawa and Ngati Pikiao are now also inclined to support this proposal. The more supporting submissions that are received, the more likely it is that the Consent will be heard by Commissioners and not in the Environment Court (a much more realistic and far less protracted and expensive option). Please check your covering letter and if we do not have your correct email address (or at all!) could you send this to us at lrca@xtra.co.nz together with full name and other contact details.

REGIONAL SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE

The article from the Chair of Lakes Water Quality Society contains excellent news of a substantially revised timetable for reduction of 311 tonnes of Nitrogen from the Lake Rotorua catchment. We commend the work of EBOP's Special Projects Committee in this regard; an enormous amount has been achieved and the challenge now is to ensure that all parties concerned remain focused on this very real problem and doggedly commit to an effective implementation programme.

HILARY PRIOR | CHAIRPERSON

UPDATED PROPOSAL FOR LAKE ROTOITI LEVELS



OKERE GATES CONSENT RENEWAL

(Acknowledgement: Content for this article has been provided by Ken Tarboton – Group Manager Rivers and Drainage, EBOP)

BACKGROUND

Lake Rotorua levels are controlled by outflow through the Ohau Weir, down the Ohau Channel and into Lake Rotoiti. Levels in Lake Rotoiti are controlled by the operation of the Okere radial gates. Environment Bay of Plenty owns both the Ohau Weir and Okere Gates structures which are currently part of the Kaituna Catchment Control Scheme. The structures are operated by the Rivers and Drainage Group who hold the consents for their operation. The Consents for both structures expire in June 2010. In order to keep operating the structures, an application to renew the consents was filed before the end of 2009.

Since issue of the current consents in 1996, Te Arawa Lakes Trust (TALT) has become the owner of the beds of 13 lakes in the Rotorua area under the Deed of Settlement of the Te Arawa Lakes Historical Claims and Remaining Annuity Claims 2004 and Te Arawa Lakes Settlement Act 2006. This ownership includes the beds of Lake Rotorua and Lake Rotoiti but not specifically the land under the Okere Gates and Ohau Weir structures. The Act requires Environment Bay of Plenty to engage with and involve Te Arawa through the TALT on Rotorua Lakes issues.

PROCESS TO DEVELOP PROPOSED OPERATIONS

The process has been divided into three stages.

Stage 1

In stage 1 Te Arawa were involved to develop a process for the consent renewal and assist in determining an initial consent application to be filed by the end of December 2009. Some consultation with other stakeholders and interested parties occurred during this stage. Stage 1 ended with filing the consent application at the end of December 2009.

Stage 2

Stage 2 has involved further consultation and water quality modelling to refine the initial placeholder operational range for Lake Rotoiti to determine a proposed operational strategy. The Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) is currently being revised to be used in the notification of the consents by July 2010.

Stage 3

Stage 3 commences with notification of the consent and will include receiving submissions, a commissioner or Environment Court hearing and deliberations ending with a consent decision. Based on submissions the applicant may request direct referral of the final consent application to the Environment Court. It is anticipated that Stage 3 will be completed before the end of 2010.

PROPOSED OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES

Lake Rotorua

Lake Rotorua levels, controlled by the Ohau Weir structure, have a relatively natural fluctuation within the currently consented range of 610 mm between 279.50 and 280.11 m (RL Moturiki Datum). Operations consist of the removal and re-insertion of stoplogs in the weir structure allowing some level control. For the most part levels fluctuate naturally with the stoplogs only removed occasionally – typically once or twice a year during extreme rainfall events.

Trigger levels determine when the stoplogs are removed or reinserted. Consultation has indicated that in general lake users and the lakeside community are satisfied with the current control structure and lake levels. Considerable infrastructural investment has been made on and around the Lake Rotorua foreshore by Rotorua District Council and private enterprise based on the current Lake Rotorua operational strategy.

As a result, no operational or structural changes were considered for the Ohau Weir and Lake Rotorua operations. Modelling of a range of possible structural configurations and operations for the Okere Gates have indicated that there is very little effect on Lake Rotorua for changes made to Lake Rotoiti levels.

The proposed operational strategy for Lake Rotorua is to maintain lake levels between the current upper and lower statutory levels. Some flexibility of the guidelines for installation and removal of the stoplogs will be sought, to allow for adaptive management and more flexibility in maintaining downstream Lake Rotoiti levels without significantly impacting Lake Rotorua levels.

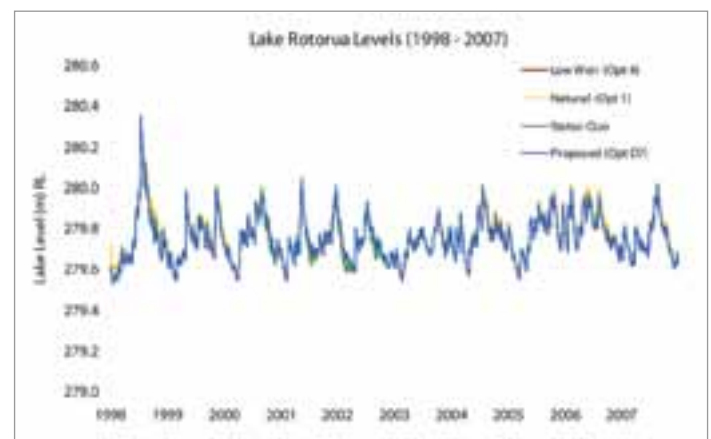


Figure 1. Comparison of Lake Rotorua levels for different operational options at Okere Gates

LAKE ROTOITI

Options considered

As part of the work to identify the proposed operations for the Okere Gates a number of options have been considered, modelled and discussed with the community. The following four options were identified as representing the wide spectrum of options considered. A consistent 10 year period from 1998 to 2007 with the same measured rainfall and inflows to both Lake Rotorua and Rotoiti was used in the different model simulations.

- Status Quo. Measured Rotoiti levels resulting from current consented operations.
- Low Weir. Simulated Rotoiti levels with the Okere gates left completely open or removed without restoring the original rock ledge (removed during construction).
- Natural Levels. Simulated Rotoiti levels with the pre-structure Rotoiti outlet morphology (rock ledge reinstated) and the current 10 year rainfall and inflow.
- Proposed Operations. Model simulated operations to best meet the varied community goals for Rotoiti levels.

The ranges for the different options are compared in figure 2 below.



Figure 2: Comparison of simulated ranges for different Lake Rotoiti operational options compared with measured data from 1998 – 2007.

Option Comparison Criteria

To maximise benefits to the wider community, indicators that considered cultural, environmental, social and economic well beings were identified using the Mauri model. Performance measures were derived from these indicators to quantify differences between options. A simplified subset of the performance measures (described in previous reports) was used together with best professional judgement to select the proposed option.

Recent consultation

Several options were presented at the 9 and 11 April Public Open days held in Rotorua. In general there was support for a wider operational range than the status quo, however concerns were expressed about lower than current target Lake Rotoiti levels proposed, particularly in the summer months. As a result of these concerns further modelling and consultation was undertaken to best address the community concerns. The table below shows the extent of the consultation undertaken since the April open days. The object of this consultation was to further refine the proposed operations with more modelling, result assessment and discussion of the results with a cross-section of community representatives.

Table 1. Community and agency consultation and briefings since April 2010.

Date	Consultation or Briefing
9 and 11 April	Two Public Open days, Lynmore Primary School, Rotorua
19 April	Te Arawa Lakes Trust Briefing, Rotorua
26 April	Rotorua District Council, Te Arawa Lakes Standing Committee, Rotorua
5 May	EBOP Regional Monitoring and Operations Committee, Whakatane
6 May	EBOP Maori Committee, Mataikotare Marae, Rotokawa
6 May	RDC technical staff, Rotorua
7 May	CEO's of RDC, EBOP, TALT with TALT Chairman, Rotorua
11 May	Tapuika Iwi, Te Puke
11 and 18 May	Optimising workshops with Lake Rotoiti Community Association (LRCA) representative, Whakatane
19 May	TALT, EBOP and LRCA, Rotorua
26 May	Kaituna Catchment Control Scheme, Te Puke

PROPOSED OPTION

Through the above consultation and modelling efforts, the proposed option has been refined. The range of the proposed option is shown in figure 2 and daily Lake Rotoiti levels over the 10 year period (1989–2007) for each option shown in figure 3 (below). The proposed option has a slightly wider and more natural range than the status quo. The proposed option does not have the variability of low weir or natural levels option but better meets other performance criteria.

Key benefits of the proposed option are as follows:

- More natural range (with target range rather than fixed target level) with associated cultural and environmental benefits
- Potentially better water quality in Lake Rotoiti and down the Kaituna River
- Jetties and navigation unaffected by level range
- Fewer flows greater 40 cumecs down Kaituna River thus reduced erosion and flood risk
- Slight improvement in number of raftable days
- Gentler rate of lake level rises and conducive to Dabchick breeding

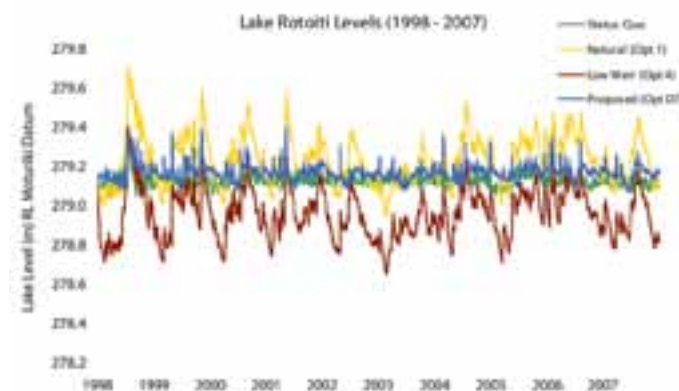


Figure 3. Daily Lake Rotoiti levels over 10 years with different operational options

PROPOSED OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Based on the proposed option, the operational strategy for Lake Rotoiti controlled by the Okere Gates is proposed as follows:

Principle: Improve environmental and cultural outcomes while not adversely affecting social and economic values. This is achieved by allowing for seasonal fluctuation within specified target ranges. This differs from the current consented operations which have a static target level with tight variance around the target level

Proposed Consented Levels and Ranges (all levels in m RL Moturiki Datum)

- Maximum consented level of 279.40
- Minimum consented level of 279.00
- 400 mm consented range

(Note that 90% of the simulated Natural Levels are between the proposed maximum and minimum)

Proposed operational levels and ranges (all levels in m RL Moturiki Datum)

- Allow operational levels to rise above 279.25 for a maximum of 5% of each year in extreme events
- Target operational range of 200 mm between 279.05 and 279.25 with following target distribution
 - 5 -10% of year between 279.20 and 279.25
 - At least 80% of year between 279.10 and 279.20
 - 5 -10% of year between 279.05 and 279.10 in the months of May to July

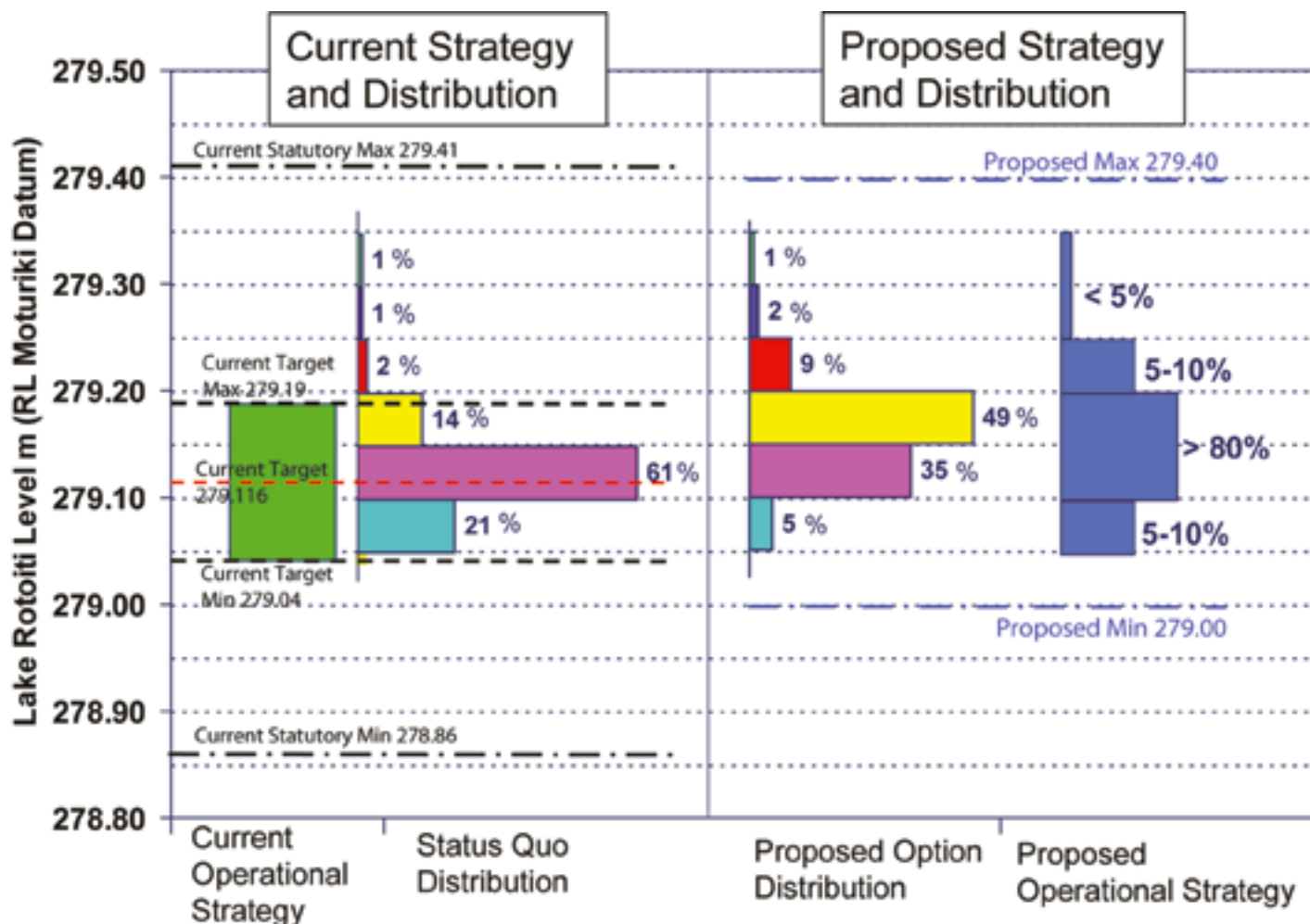
REVIEW AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

It is proposed that a regular (every three years) review of this operational strategy is undertaken to allow adaptive management within the above targets.

Adaptive management within the operational flexibility of these

targets could include initiatives such as rapid drawdown (flushing) to provide short term benefits for water quality if requested and approved by the Te Arawa Rotorua Lakes programme.

A schematic of the proposed operational strategy compared with the current operational strategy is shown in figure 4 below.



NEXT STEPS

Water quality modelling is currently underway to confirm the preferred option. A revised AEE will be produced using the preferred option and updated water quality modelling. It is proposed that the revised consent application will be lodged and notified in July 2010.

Following lodgement of the consent, it will be notified, public submissions received, reviewed and responded to and then the consent will be heard either by Commissioners or the Environment Court.

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In the last six months we have seen significant progress in the way the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group partners are addressing lake water quality issues.

In our October 2009 newsletter we expressed our disappointment in the 240 years time frame being proposed to achieve a 311 tonne reduction in nitrogen loss in the Lake Rotorua catchment. On 16 April 2010 an amendment was proposed to the Strategy Group as follows:

The Regional Special Projects Committee confirms that the nitrogen export target from land to Lake Rotorua shall NOT exceed 435 tonnes in 2019 as set out in the Draft Regional Policy Statement

The Regional Special Projects Committee has concluded that major land use change is the only viable option to reach the nitrogen export target of 435 tonnes in 2019

This proposal was adopted and is now EBOP policy. What this means is the target has now been "reigned in" to 9 years rather than 240 years. This is a huge turn around and we congratulate all those who were involved in this very significant decision for Lake Rotorua.

The challenge will be to get 311 tonnes of N out of the catchment by 2019. However with a combination of "best farming" practices and incentives for land use change the targets should be achievable.

Our committee recently visited several dairy farms in the Waikato region where the farmers have been concerned about the environmental impacts of their operations. They had implemented "nutrient management plans" and were able to demonstrate by using the "Overseer" model, that they could achieve significant reductions in nutrient leaching, whilst not impacting adversely on profitability.

We noted that the Upper Waikato catchment is targeting leaching losses of 26 kg N/ha/yr for dairy and 12 kg N/ha/yr for sheep and beef farms.

How would such targets impact on Lake Rotorua's catchment?

LAKE ROTORUA CATCHMENT	kg/N leached/ha/yr (000 kgs)
Total exports from catchment	746
Less Target	435
Total reduction required	311
Less Non-pastoral targets	80
Pastoral farming target	231
UPPER WAIKATO TARGETS APPLIED TO LAKE ROTORUA CATCHMENT	
Dairy – 5,883 ha x (50 – 26 kg/ha/yr)	141
Sheep & beef – 12,759 ha x (18 – 12 kg/ha/yr)	76
Reduction in N loss in catchment	217

Answer – 94% of the pastoral farming target of 231 tonnes, i.e. 217 tonnes of N would be achieved if the Upper Waikato leaching targets were adopted in the Lake Rotorua catchment.

These targets do not include the benefits of wintering dairy cows outside the lake catchment. In our submissions to EBOP and RDC we continue to stress the high level of nutrient leaching that occurs from grazing cattle and dairy cows over the winter period in the Lake Rotorua catchment.

Obviously there are a lot of differences and issues between these two catchment systems. However, with the use of "best management farming practices" and an innovative range of tools to assist farmers the nutrient leaching targets set by EBOP would appear to be achievable.

FRESHWATER POLICIES

Two key documents which will underpin the future sustainability of the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes are the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and the District Plan. LWQS has made strong submissions on both draft documents and will continue to monitor their progress to finalisation. These have been listed on our website for those who wish to read the detail.

Finally I would like to go on record to say how impressed our committee was with the Draft Report on the National Policy Statement for freshwater management in New Zealand. The authors have developed an outstanding set of policies which we trust will find their way into a government mandated National Policy Statement. We strongly encourage Dr Nick Smith, Minister for the Environment, to see this process through to a finalised NPS.

JOHN GREEN. CHAIRMAN

LAKE ROTOITI COMMUNITY

I enjoyed attending the Lake Rotoiti Community Association AGM earlier this year, and hearing your views on the resource consent process surrounding lake level changes. I have spoken with a large number of residents and interested parties, and also met with the LakesWater Quality Society.

With these discussions in mind, I was pleased that Budget 2010 has confirmed that the Rotorua Lakes clean up will continue with funding ring fenced to 2014. I was able to raise the issue in a question to the Environment Minister Nick Smith in Parliament recently with the Minister confirming that government would invest \$94 million over the financial years 2009-2014 in initiatives to clean up Lake Rotorua, Lake Rotoiti, Lake Taupo and the Waikato River in partnership with local councils and iwi.

This is a five fold increase over what was spent on water quality

initiatives over the five years prior to 2009. With the diversion wall appearing to be performing as it should, it is time to move on to new initiatives that will make a more timely impact the water quality issues in Lake Rotorua, and therefore on outflows from Rotorua into Lake Rotoiti.

I believe that it will be important for Environment Bay of Plenty, Rotorua District Council, farmers and other lake users in the Rotorua Lakes catchment to make progress on these initiatives this year. This means that some of the funds committed by government could be used to assist with land use changes where this will be beneficial to lake water quality.

Contact Todd McClay, MP for Rotorua at his Rotorua Electorate Office on 07 348 5871 or rotorua.mp@national.co.nz.

TODD MCCLAY | MP. ROTORUA ELECTORATE

AQUATIC PEST UPDATE

As we reported last year – the find of a dead Brown Bullhead Catfish (catfish) washed up at Okawa Bay on Lake Rotoiti in January 2009 may have jeopardised the pest fish free status of the Lake. Although catfish are a problem in the Waikato River system, including Lake Taupo, the Rotorua region has until now managed to remain catfish-free.

At the time, Department of Conservation (DoC) staff along with EBOP undertook extensive netting surveys and scuba diving around the Okawa Bay area to look for evidence of catfish in the lake. Further surveys were undertaken in December 2009 and to date no further evidence of catfish presence have been found.

There were several reports of fish sightings over the 2009/10 summer and it was great to see everyone being vigilant and reporting fish they were unsure of. All of the fish that were kept by the public and later identified by DoC and Fish and Game staff were confirmed to be goldfish. Historically goldfish have been present in Lake Rotoiti (and other Te Arawa/Rotorua Lakes) with wild populations growing larger and often darker in colour than tank fish. Goldfish are thought to have less impacts on waterways compared with carp, catfish and other pest fish species so are generally considered down the list on the threat they pose to our lakes and rivers. Goldfish have a resemblance to Carp so if you find what you think may be a goldfish just give us a call and we prefer to come and confirm what the specimen may be. Unfortunately, we still cannot be certain

that a population of catfish does not currently exist in Lake Rotoiti even after the work that has been conducted. This is where we still need your help. If you see or capture a fish which you are not sure of, please give us a call.

The most important thing is to follow the steps below:

If you have caught and killed a suspicious

looking fish, please place the dead fish in a plastic bag and freeze. This will enable accurate identification later on.

Record any other details you can remember about the sighting including time, location, how many you saw, colour of fish etc.

Call the Department of Conservation to report your find – during office hours on 07-349 7400 or after hours on the DOC Hotline 0800 362 468

ADDITIONAL WORK AROUND LAKE ROTOITI BY DOC

DoC also had a staff member undertaking aquatic pest advocacy around the Rotorua Area last summer. Amy Greaves spent time around Lake Rotoiti distributing information and chatting with people. Amy was promoting the Check Clean Dry message to help stop the spread of Didymo as well as



DOC STAFF UNDERTAKING FISH SURVEYS IN OKAWA BAY

aquatic weeds and pest fish.

DoC have also been routinely sampling the Kaituna River for presence of Didymo with the next round of sampling due this month. The Kaituna is just one of the rivers that make up this sampling network throughout the country and assists Biosecurity NZ in managing Didymo. All samples taken to date from the Kaituna have been negative for Didymo presence.

The simple act of check, clean and dry for all our fishing, kayak and boating equipment before we move between waterways is as important as ever before. These actions can help keep our lakes pest free.

JOHLENE KELLY

RANGER - BIODIVERSITY (MONITORING ROTORUA LAKES AREA OFFICE, DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION)



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ROTORUA LAKES COMMUNITY BOARD

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Seems hard to believe that it is just on 3 years since the Rotorua Lakes Community Board was constituted and that elections for councils and the Board will be held on the 9th October this year. Again, four people will be elected to the Board with a further two Councillors to be appointed by RDC. Nominations for candidates open on the 23rd July and close on Friday 20th August. If you have an interest in improving the well-being of the Community and enhancing communication with Council, you may care to consider standing. Please feel free to contact us if you would like some further information.

At the time of writing, we have just finishing making submissions to both RDC and EBOP Councils on their respective annual plans. Waste minimisation has been a hot topic with much debate on the issue of kerbside recycling with its attendant increased costs.

The Board has considerable concerns regarding the affordability of EBOP's proposed hi-tech OSET sewerage systems that will affect those who are unable to connect to a reticulated sewerage scheme. We have submitted that EBOP should supply and install these systems where necessary and offer finance for the cost to be repaid over a 25 year period.

Construction of the Lake Okareka sewerage reticulation scheme continues on schedule with the trunk main over the hill from the waste water treatment plant now completed. Work will commence later this year on the Okere Falls, Otaramarae and Whangamarino scheme with other lakeside settlements to follow in due course.

We continue to lobby EBOP to adopt a fair 'Lakes Restoration Rate' instead of the residential community presently paying 79% of the rate while contributing only 8% of the pollution. While the EBOP Council have acknowledged the inequity of this rating formula on a number of occasions, to date there has been no significant change. We see the continuation of this rate in its present form as particularly unfair to lakeside residents who are paying considerable sums of money to minimise their own pollution.

Lake weed continues to be a problem in some areas. With science having set nutrient reduction targets necessary to remediate the water quality in each lake, and with weed harvesting alone having

achieved these targets in some areas, notably Lake Rotoehu, the Board supports control of weed by harvesting rather than by spraying. However, budgets are tight and, without clarity as to which agency has responsibility for weed control for amenity and for safety reasons, getting significant action is difficult. There is talk of a private initiative to build a harvester for use on Lake Rotoiti that, with the present weed infestation during the holiday season, would appear positive.

Congratulations to the members of the Lake Rotoiti Classic & Wooden Boat Assn. who, with the kind permission from Maori landowners and with financial assistance from EBOP's Environmental Enhancement Fund, have completed the construction of 4 eco-toilets around Lake Rotoiti. These toilets are located at Wairau (Deadhorse) Bay, Whangamoia Point, Te Arero Bay and Piropiro (Cherry) Bay. Please make use of these toilets and respect the private land the toilets are located on.

Following community concern, the Board continues to progress the issue of providing adequate infrastructure to cater for the growing popularity of our lakes. A formal report from APR Consultants highlighting particular pressure locations has been commissioned and was recently presented to the 'Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group'. We look forward to extensive consultation with the community in the near future on the many issues involved.

At the time of writing and following a number of time extensions, it is anticipated that EBOP will notify the consent for the future operation of the Okere Falls control gates in mid July. It can be expected that this consent may affect the operating levels of Lake Rotoiti. Following the large public meeting on this issue on the 3rd January this year, a subcommittee of the Lake Rotoiti Community Association has been engaged in extensive consultation with EBOP and the affected stakeholders. Our thanks go to those involved for the time and the tremendous effort they have contributed.

Following notification of this consent, there will be an opportunity to make submissions. We would urge everyone to make a submission in support or in opposition to the final proposal when the time comes.

ROTOITI SEWERAGE SCHEME

The issue No 3 (May 2010) Rotoiti Sewerage Scheme newsletter was sent to every property owner. The newsletter provided the result of the submissions on the proposed sewerage scheme and addressed questions during the submission process. If you have not received a copy of the newsletter, please contact Council's Customer Service at 07 3484199.

With the majority of the community supporting a sewerage scheme to proceed, Council adopted the recommendation to progress the detailed planning and design of the Rotoiti sewerage scheme which includes the following areas: Rotoiti community from Ruato Bay to Hinehopu, Curtis Road and Hauparu Bay, Morehu Road (Lake Rotoehu).

Council Engineers will soon proceed with the plumbing audit and electrical audit of each property. The plumbing audit will involve Council's engineers visiting each property to identify the most appropriate location of the pumping unit that will service each property, and to ensure that stormwater pipes are not connected to the existing septic tanks.

The electrical audit will involve an electrician visiting each property to identify possible connection point of the pumping unit's electrical system to the property's existing domestic power supply. The work will also include determining whether the existing domestic power supply has sufficient capacity to cope with the additional power demand

from the pumping unit.

Each property owner will be notified by letter about the timing of these audits. Although it is not essential, the property owners may wish to be present on site during the inspections.

The Rotoiti and Rotoma communities will be connected to a common wastewater treatment and disposal system. The intention is to complete the construction and commissioning of the wastewater treatment plant and disposal system ahead of the sewerage pipeline network.

The plant is expected to be completed in September 2012. The sewerage pipeline network is programmed to be fully operational in December 2012.

LAKE ROTOITI CHARITABLE TRUST

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Following the dissolution of the Manupirua Springs Society, the Lake Rotoiti Charitable Trust was incorporated on the 19th October 2006 and has now been established for nearly four years.

With the exception of Nick Miller (appointed April 2009) the Trustees are nearing the end of their term. The 'Deed of Trust' (it can be viewed at www.societies.govt.nz) provides that no term of appointment shall be for more than four years although, at the end of that term, a Trustee may be appointed for a further term of four years.

We will shortly be contacting the appointor organisations (Lake Rotoiti Scenic Reserve Board, Lake Rotoiti Classic & Wooden Boat Assn. Inc., Bay of Plenty Trailer Yacht Squadron Inc., and the Lake Rotoiti Community Association Inc.) to appoint Trustees for the next four years. If you wish to influence that appointment process, you will need to contact any one of those organisations direct.

Since its incorporation in 2006, the Trustees initially focussed on establishing and promoting the Trust with brochures and fact sheets distributed to the Rotoiti community. Donations and income to the Trust have approx. equalled the original founding funds, and grants in

excess of \$7,000.00 have been distributed to qualifying organisations within the community.

Trustees recently made a presentation of \$2,150.00 to the Pikiāo schoolboys rugby league team at one of their training sessions. We wish Leesa Haimona and her team every success in their future campaigns.

The Trust is essentially dependant on donations to continue and expand its activities. All donations are appreciated and are applied in accordance with the 'Deed of Trust'. The Trust is run on a totally voluntary basis so, with the exception of minimal administration expenses, all donations and income are available for distribution. IRD approved donee receipts for tax rebates will be sent to all who make donations to the Trust.

Many thanks to all who have supported the work of the Trust and don't forget to visit our web site at www.rototitcharitabletrust.co.nz

HUGH MARSTON (CHAIR)

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES



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OBITUARY: SIR GAVEN DONNE. KBE 1914 - 2010

A long standing member of our community, Sir Gaven Donne KBE, passed away at his home in Otaramarae on Sunday 28 March 2010. Sir Gaven was 95 years old and is survived by his four children, ten grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Lady Donne died in 2005.

Sir Gaven was a prominent jurist who worked in New Zealand and the Pacific Islands for over 60 years. Sir Gaven commenced his working life as a Barrister and Solicitor in Wellington in 1938. After four years of service in the Second World War, which included time in Palestine, Egypt, Libya and Italy he returned to New Zealand in 1946. Sir Gaven provided legal education to soldiers prior to demobilisation. He was made a partner in Morpeth Gould in 1950.

Sir Gaven and Lady Donne purchased their Otaramarae property in 1949.

Sir Gaven was first appointed to the bench in October 1958 as a stipendiary magistrate for the newly established circuit centred in Rotorua. As the first resident magistrate in Rotorua his circuit included Tauranga, Taupo, Taumarunui, Putaruru and Tokoroa.

Sir Gaven's first appointment overseas was to the Cook Islands in 1968. In 1969 he was seconded to the Supreme Court of Western Samoa. Following that he assumed the appointment as stipendiary magistrate for the Tauranga circuit. Sir Gaven returned to Samoa to become Western Samoa's Chief Justice in 1972 – the first of five such

appointments. In 1975 he was appointed Chief Justice of the Cook Islands and Niue.

He is remembered amongst international lawyers because of the impact of his judgment in the 1978 Cook Islands electoral petition. That case has been variously described as "a landmark in British legal history" and "a triumph for the law vividly demonstrating the independence of the judiciary." In his judgment he ruled that the votes from Cook Islanders residing overseas who had flown in from Australia and New Zealand were invalid. This resulted in a change in the government in the Cook Islands.

Sir Gaven's services to the law were recognised by the Queen in 1979 and he was knighted with the Order of Knight Commander of the British Empire KBE.

The ultimate accolade to this remarkable career was his appointment in 1982 as the first ever Queen's Representative of the Cook Islands.

Following the completion of his term in the Cook Islands in 1985, he became Chief Justice of Nauru.

In addition to this appointment he served as Chief Justice of Tuvalu and was a member of the Court of Appeal of Kiribati.

Failing eyesight caused him to retire in 2002.

OBITUARY: DR. DON STAFFORD. CBE, MBE 1927 – 2010

Historian Don Stafford CBE MBE spent most of his long career championing the history and heritage of his beloved city, Rotorua.

As a boy in his father's menswear shop in Tutaneke Street, Don was brought into close contact with kuia and kaumatua of Te Arawa. The old people told stories to the youngster who imbibed the language and began to record their history.

His definitive work, *Te Arawa: A History of the Arawa People*, published in 1967, earned an Elsdon Best Memorial Medal, awarded in 1970 by the Polynesian Society. This authoritative book was followed by a further twenty-two books on the Rotorua area; an accomplishment that was recognised with an MBE in 1982, and in 1993, a CBE and an honorary doctorate from the University of Waikato. His last book, *Wild Wind from the North*, published in 2007, addressed the controversial story of Hongi Hika.

The work of this very humble man has ensured that Te Arawa history will never be forgotten. Dr Stafford was a storyteller, a keeper and sharer of knowledge. This is a superb legacy that he has left for Te Arawa and all peoples of New Zealand.

Historic Rotorua buildings stand restored and protected for future generations aided by Don Stafford's determined efforts. They include St

Faith's Church, Ohinemutu, St Peter's Church, Owata, and Te Runanga Tea House in the Government Gardens, re-opened in 1993. The major development of the Bath House building's south wing, due for completion in August 2011, will be called The Don Stafford Wing. From 1968 to 1970 he served as the first curator of the then Rotorua City Museum and was Rotorua's official historian.

Don Stafford's fluency in te reo Maori gave him mana in the Maori world where he was accorded the status of rangatira. After he passed away on 5 April 2010, Ngati Whakaue welcomed his body onto Te Papaiohuru Marae where it lay in state prior to a service in his beloved St Faith's Church and burial at Kauae Cemetery.

His flair for the English language earned him respect locally, nationally and internationally. A regular broadcaster, speaker, artist, and in latter years documentary film maker, this charismatic man never tired of sharing his rich lode of stories with generations of Rotorua people.

Over the years, our Newsletters have contained excerpts from Dr. Stafford's works and we hope that his family will be happy to allow for this to continue in the future.

His late wife Nancy died just over 12 years ago. He is survived by his two children, six grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

WEST ROTOITI CARE GROUP

We have had two care group activities recently. A small but committed group of Te Akau Road residents met to trim the plantings at the end of Te Akau Road. This work has given better vision for road users, especially at the intersection of Te Akau and Okere roads.

A further working bee was advertised for 22nd May. This attracted nine willing folk, a disappointing number, as this had been publicised. Weekends are not always the best time for these days as parents are often committed to children's sporting events.

We might have lacked quantity, but we had quality and achieved good results in the plantings along Highway 33.

Recently the area over the road from the Whangamarino School was sprayed again. We have had some losses over the hot summer; this can be replanted. The newly sprayed area will be ready for planting in September.

We have two couples who separately care for areas in their immediately vicinity. Thank you to those folk who are making an ongoing contribution.

I have just been approached by a Commercial Operator on the lake who wishes to be informed of our activities with a view to helping keep Rotoiti beautiful. Thank you to all the locals who help out.

If any readers have any suggestion to make about our activities I can be reached on 07 3624976.

We would anticipate holding a planting morning the last weekend in September, and a beach clean up in October. These will probably be advertised by flier, and through The Wooden Boats Association.

I would like to be able to contact people by email about our upcoming activities, but I need your permission to do so. If you are willing to help in this way please email me: **JAN WILKINS** | JUANITA1@CLUBNET.CO.NZ

WEST ROTOITI VOLUNTEER FIRE UNIT

Tena koe

CALLOUTS - The past fire season from October 1st 2009 to April 30th 2010 saw the Okere Falls fire truck attending more than 20 call-outs. Half of those were vegetation/rubbish fires which were quickly brought under control by the West Rotoiti crew. The two largest vegetation fires attended to were both in the Okere Falls area. The gorse fire in October 2009 quickly spread to a hundred square metres in area and required a lot of local resources in addition to two fire trucks from Rotorua who helped to supply extra water. The second large fire, in March 2010 was initially contained to a small area by residents with a garden hose. However, due to the peat-like ground in the area of the fire the local Okere Falls Crew had to put in an afternoon of work with large amounts of water to hose down hot spots to make sure this wouldn't flare up again in windy and very dry conditions. In both cases, landowners did not have fire permits which can be very frustrating when attending fires.

The remaining callouts consisted of rescues and medical calls together with structure fires and a small number of false alarms. A garage fire in Okawa Bay in March also kept the unit on its toes. On arrival the building was well involved but the unit managed to stop the fire spreading into an adjacent sleep-out and garage. Although



those parts of the building sustained smoke and water damage, most property in the garage could be saved. The NZ Fire Service also attended this callout with two appliances as well and their crews attacked the fire from the inside of the building wearing breathing apparatus. Water was also supplied from Lake Okareka Rural Fire Unit. This new Rural Fire Water Tanker can hold nearly 16,000 litres of water and has been a great support at fires in the Rotorua District when there is difficult access to water.

NEW EQUIPMENT AND CREW - It's now just over a year that the Unit has had medical oxygen and a defibrillator on the fire truck. While the defibrillator luckily hasn't seen any use yet it is some peace of mind to have one in the area. The oxygen unit has been used on patients several times during vehicle crashes and other accidents in the last year and it's great to have this on board. The Unit also has Dennis Aperahama and Paul Morriss as two new volunteers who have passed the training programme and are key members of the unit. Haere mai.

ANDI UHL | CHAIRMAN

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

Oxygen is not normally part of standard equipment for a Rural Fire Unit. For the first year we received a generous grant from Lake Rotoiti Community Trust to cover one year of expenses, but from now on we are reliant on donations and subscriptions to cover those expenses. So the costs for bottle rental, masks and refills have to be carried by our Unit. The same applies to the defibrillator maintenance which includes costly batteries. Following our last newsletter in December 2009 we have received a good response from locals who have given financial support in the form of subscriptions and donations. If you are able to support our cause please see details below. All donations will help to keep those items on board our fire truck and our fire unit operational and contribute to an effective response by the West Rotoiti Volunteer Fire Unit.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2009/2010

We would like to thank all our supporters for their subscriptions and donations during the last year. This goes a long way to keeping the Unit operational. If you haven't done so and would like to pay your

subscription (\$10 per household) and/or make any donations to West Rotoiti Volunteer Fire Unit Inc. you can:

1. Send a cheque to: Treasurer, Carol Goodman, 12B Foster Road, Okere Falls, RD4, Rotorua. Or
2. Alternatively you can make a direct payment into our bank account at: National Bank Rotorua Branch, Account # 06-0413-0058972-00.

Kia ora nui. **ANDI UHL**, CHIEF FIRE OFFICER & CHAIRMAN,
WEST ROTOITI VOLUNTEER FIRE UNIT INC

Subscriptions 2009/2010

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I attach Subscriptions of \$10 _____

Receipt Required? ☐ Yes ☐ No

I would also like to make a donation of \$ _____

Receipt Required? ☐ Yes ☐ No

TROUT FISHING ROTOITI

A REVIEW OF THE 2009
-2010 FISHING SEASON

Lake Rotoiti has once again out-performed Tarawera and Okatina throughout the season, positioning the lake as a premier trophy destination for ardent anglers. Fish and Game results for Opening Day were by and large on par in terms of comparison with the last two seasons: 250 anglers surveyed with 226 fish measured, average weight 1.71kgs, average length of two year old hatchery liberated fish, 509 mm. Catch rates obviously hampered to a degree by poor weather conditions on the day.

The Ohau Channel produced spectacular results with many anglers hailing it as "The Best Opening Ever!" 98 fish weighed in by 9am in the Marama Point Oaks Club Competition alone. Estimates of 250 plus fish for the day. Brown trout exceeding 7kgs were caught in the weeks that followed.

Outstanding results throughout the fishery have provoked international media attention with great exposure expected for the 2010 – 2011 opening. Strong SW and W winds created difficult fishing conditions for most of the pre-Christmas competitions. Jigging was particularly affected with the inability to position accurately over structures holding fish. Most anglers resorted to harling, mid and deep trolling to achieve results.

Early December saw a rapid rise in water temperature and as a consequence, the 20-25m thermocline developed over much of the lake. Thermoclines offer proactive anglers a tighter target range and must be considered, particularly over the warmer months, December through to April. Large numbers of trout gravitate to these areas of temperature variation to feed on abundant smelt populations, increasing body mass prior to spawning. Jigging is the stand out technique to target these fish and when combined with

underwater structures holding feeding trout, it's possible to achieve phenomenal catch rates.

As a general rule the first to "fire" is the "Westbank". Normally early December, followed by the northern structures in an easterly direction to the "Slip" opposite the "Skids" at the extreme eastern end of the lake.

By mid-March Paketo Island produces outstanding results, both size and numbers. This season particularly has stood out with many fish in excess of 4.5kgs taken from this structure. The cycle then moves to the southern shoreline structures, Moose Reef and culminates towards the end of the season at Ruato. Shoreline fly fishing from Ruato to the Pipe has been exceptional recently with a number of double figure fish landed already. Fish and Game predict this trend to continue into the colder winter months.

"Matching the Hatch" is the key to improving your catch rate. You must consider the size, shape, colour, action of your flies and lures. Aligning these features closely to those of the naturals and combining the depth and position of feeding trout will greatly enhance your result.

Like all angling, trout fishing is not an exact science. However if you don't adopt a scientific approach to it, your catch rate will reflect your lack of preparation and planning.

Professional instruction is the key to improving your game. Like all sports there are short cuts through effective training and worth considering if you seriously want the 80/20 rule to swing your way!

GLEN SKINNER

THE TROUT CONNECTION | 027 3232 336

RUBBISH

The scheduled rubbish collection is for Mondays. Collection happens every Monday even on public holidays.

From time to time residents or tenants vacate their properties on days other than Sunday or Monday and put their rubbish out at the gate. These bags are found ripped open by roaming dogs and sometimes cats and the contents scattered everywhere. The mess is usually cleaned up by residents.

LRCA would like to make public to all ratepayers in the Okere area the concern of residents in this regard.

We suggest that all owners who rent their properties, either privately or through a letting agency make a policy of:

- ensuring users either take their rubbish out of the area; or
- arrange with a neighbour to hold their rubbish bags until the scheduled collection day

The other alternative would be to ensure the letting agents make alternative arrangements for rubbish bags. Some residents put their bags high on a hedge which works well.

The waste contractors do a good job, but when confronted with a gross mess of spread garbage, there is a limit to what they can do.

CALLING ALL ACCOUNTANTS

Our grateful thanks go to Ivan Thomson of Okere Falls who has ably audited our accounts for the last nine years but is now passing the baton onto the next generation. He has done a great job for the Association.

The Association is in need of a suitably qualified person or persons, to audit our annual accounts this year and in following years. A suitably qualified person would be a current or retired accountant with ACA or equivalent. Our financial year ends 30 September with final accounts available late October for auditing by mid December for the AGM in the first few days of January. The audit is not arduous: in a typical year there are about 400 income entries (derived from subscriptions, donations, interest and newsletter advertising) and 40 expense entries. Accounts are on a cash basis. Outgoings are limited mainly to newsletter costs, meeting venue hire and legal expenses. Accounts are kept in MYOB.

Please volunteer today, your Association needs you.

Email: lrca@xtra.co.nz

GREETINGS

CR CHARLES STURT

We live in challenging times not least of all with the Financial situation facing many other countries.

2010/2011 FINANCIAL YEAR OF ROTORUA DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Council has taken a very responsible fiscal position in terms of Rotorua District Council Rates. We did signal that we would limit rate increase to CPI we have done better than that and while debt levels are manageable its important vigilance on Council spending is maintained. I believe debt should only be used for capital infrastructure improvements.

We have taken a fiscally neutral position but we cannot say the same for EBOP and we have designed a separate rates bill so you can see exactly what you are paying for the Tauranga based regional Council. After we learnt that they were increasing total rates to Rotorua people by approx 13% we reacted. Our rate increase or increase in revenue is planned for 1% with no drop in the levels of service. Yes we have said "no" to another \$200,000 for book purchases and "no" to a Steinway piano this year and "no" to an expensive kerbside recycling regime but we have had to make the hard decisions.

In the next term of Council, with strong leadership, we must address the burgeoning staff numbers and cost of operation. I have total faith in Castlecorp who are delivering services way above what the private sector could, at very reasonable rates. Most councils that contracted out their services are now regretting it. The shareholders of Castlecorp are you, the Ratepayers.

We are all paying for the privatisation experiment with electricity now. Are they investing in the new lines and capital required to ensure our networks can meet the challenges of the future? I leave that for you to find out.

LAKES AND LAKES WATER QUALITY

If people want to get serious about this issue, land use change is the only way of addressing the huge tonnes of nutrients entering our waterways. However farmers are not going to walk away from their farms, their livelihoods and their land without some form of compensation and why should they? Some have farmed for four generations. Several people around the lakes have seen that septic tanks discharges had a far greater impact on the lakes than first thought. Council by 2017 will have every lakeside settlement connected to a reticulated sewerage scheme if it is cost effective. Otherwise all lakeside dwellers will have to comply with EBOP on site effluent treatment plan (OSET) prior to the dates in that plan.

ISSUES FACING ROTORUA

The scourge of Youth Crime, Methamphetamine proliferation by gangs, burglary and family violence stem from a lack of economic growth, jobs and investment opportunities. Many are hurting from the collapse of finance companies. Rotorua Police have placed emphasis on family violence and burglary with great success. The community needs to continue to report issues of concern. If police need more resources to enable them to carry out their duties then it is Government's duty to provide same. Crime has decreased over the last three years and this must continue.

TOURISM

This is the future for Rotorua and we need to keep abreast of the pressure on our lakes, infrastructure and environment. One job in five in Rotorua stems directly from Tourism. The Rotorua Airport will grow with the right attitude toward the future. Iwi and the Te Arawa people have a huge role to play here also and they already are. Look at the investment in the accommodation Industry, Hotels, Motels, Tourism Operations like Mitai, Te Puia, Tamaki Tours, the people at Rotorua's lakefront, fishing guides etc. We need to explore new incentives for people to come here, not hit them with a development contribution levy.

Elections are coming up and you will hear more from me soon.

KIA ORA

ELECTION YEAR ROLLS AROUND AGAIN; SO WHAT'S DIFFERENT THIS TIME?

The Annual Plan process is well behind us now with decisions made, rates struck and the inevitable gnashing of teeth about whether you think we could have done better. It is an interesting process as we have as many differing views as we do people who make them. This balancing act requires a broad perspective and a willingness to look at the whole picture over the long haul and not settle for a quick fix.

Fortunately Rotorua, like many smaller cities and districts is not controlled along party political lines and this I believe is our greatest strength. What has always struck me about local government is that the elected members really do represent a cross section of the community.

Up until recently the choice was four distinct wards with three councillors elected from each ward to give a total of 12 councillors for the district. Each ward is represented by the councillors they have voted for however, all councillors are sworn in to represent the whole district. With the establishment of the Rotorua Lakes Community Board in 2007 the lakeside communities have enjoyed additional representation. As one of two RDC representatives on this board, I am aware of the huge input from the Community Board. It is hard to imagine the Council being as well informed about issues in these communities without the advocacy of the Community Board.

After repeated calls from the community to abolish the ward system, the councillors voted to go district wide for the 2010 Elections. This October for the first time, the ward system will no longer apply and voters may select candidates from any part of the district.

How does that affect you?

As voters you have the opportunity to vote for up to 12 candidates. This offers you greater flexibility and choice over who you believe will best guide the city now and into the future. It allows you to choose a mix of candidates that best represents the direction you believe the council should be heading in. All candidates offer a mix of skills, experience and cultural diversity and as voters each one of you gets the chance to make your vote count.

At the last elections voter turnout in the Rotorua electorate was just 44%. It is vital that as many people as possible exercise their democratic right to vote. Your vote does count and does make a difference. At present Rotorua District Council comprises six men and six woman councillors plus the mayor, Kevin Winters. I believe women bring a different approach to governance and I hope that women will continue to be well represented on our Council.

"And where are the women in local government? Following the 2007 elections, women made up 32% of all elected members, and 46% of District Health Board members. Three city councils and ten district councils have women mayors, and out of Local Government New Zealand's 15 National council members, five are women." Kerry Prendergast Vice-President Local Government NZ.

I urge anyone with a passion for our community to consider standing for Council. Information is available from the RDC Electoral Officer, Mr Peter Christophers. I also encourage each of you to make your vote count.

I have been writing a blog since February on issues relating to my role as a councillor. I believe it is an effective way of communicating with the community and look forward to any feed back.

CR KAREN HUNT | ROTORUA DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

PH 07 349 3230 027 495 7547 | crkarenhunt.blogspot.com

ROTORUA HARBOURMASTER: **UPDATE**

Kia hora marino te moana

Kia whakapapa pounamu te moana

Kia tere te karohirohi I mua I to huarahi

Tihei Mauriora

Kia ora tatou katoa

As many of you know I've recently taken on the position of Lakes Harbourmaster from January this year so therefore the following is a brief summary of my observations and initiatives implemented to date.

Due to New Zealand's narrow mainland and the accessibility of clean waterways, New Zealand has one of the highest boat ownership per capita in the world. Rotorua has further advantage by having numerous lakes accessible for boating recreation. These lakes are currently used by many boat owners in any manner they decide to. Unfortunately New Zealand overall is well behind the times when it involves water safety, boat registration and boat education.

The blasé attitude of some who think they are capable of operating a boat is common when it is obvious to see they are not, this unfortunately impacts on the safety of all involved.

There is no compulsory boat registration, training or front line safety awareness. To achieve safe boating within New Zealand and more importantly on the Lakes we need to start with education and awareness. It is easy to use the infringement system however the proven approach is to educate rather than prosecute. "The infringement system will always be available as a last resort for those that have no regard for the safety of their crew or other users" (2010, Powell)

Therefore taking the above into consideration the following was implemented during the recent summer period.

SUMMER COVERAGE

From 26 December 2009 – 28 February 2010, Environment Bay of Plenty increased coverage on all lakes which comprised of two Patrol Boats and one Jet Ski that conducted random patrols daily between 1000-1900hrs. The lakes patrolled were those deemed high usage in order such as Rotoma, Rotoiti, Tarawera, Tikitapu and Okareka. The remaining lakes were also patrolled although less frequently.

From the 1 March to 5 April, patrols were reduced to weekends only consisting of either one Patrol Boat or one Jet Ski. The reason for this was most people had returned to work.

The increased coverage had a marked effect on users in terms that overall behaviour was generally good. Although a small percentage of users were spoken to regarding their behaviour it was evident that they were unaware of local regulations and/or bylaws. As a result, rather than infringe users, education was more productive. Consequently no infringements or warnings were issued during the summer coverage.

In addition the dedicated work of the Lakes Wardens assisted in informing and educating users as well as maintaining situational awareness "eyes and ears" for the Harbourmaster or his representatives.

Feedback overall from lake residents and the general public was that the increased coverage was productive and accidents and/or incidents were non-existent. It is expected that the same form of coverage will continue for the next summer period.

SIGNAGE

It is obvious that some signage needs to be corrected, added or removed from local jetties. Pending approval "no swimming"

signs will be placed at the following jetties, The Landing and Lake Okareka.

BOUYS AND BEACONS

The replacement of bouys and repair of beacons is an ongoing task. Therefore it is imperative that we are notified immediately if a bouy is missing from its normal place, washed up on shore or if a beacon is not working. We will endeavour to replace a bouy or repair a beacon as soon as possible however there will be delays in the repairs or replacement if equipment needs to be ordered.

STAFF

After seven years as the Maritime Officer, Rob French left the organisation to pursue a career in Early Childhood Teaching. His contribution to the organisation was invaluable and he will be a great loss. The new Maritime Officer is Ross Powell.

LAKE USAGE

Requests from organisations to utilise the lakes are increasing each year and although it seems that the lakes seem to be closed almost every weekend for an activity or event that is the burden we have to bear when we have these beautiful resources.

KAITIKITANGA (Guardianship)

It is understandable that people will take personal interest in what's happening in their "own backyards" However we must never forget that we are only guardians of our resources and not owners. Therefore the resources are for everyone to use no matter who they are or where they come from.

Whatungarongaro te tangata

Toi tu whenua, moana

As man disappears

The land and waters will remain

PERERIKA MAKIHA

HARBOURMASTER - ROTORUA LAKES

ROTORUA LAKES PROGRAMME UPDATE

You will have noticed the two blue containers adjacent to Ohau Channel over May. These house the algae harvesting equipment for our trial work to test the ability to remove algae and associated nutrients from the water. This trial will run for three months and is being undertaken in association with Aquaflow Ltd and NZ Trade and Enterprise. This action is one of the recommendations from the Rotorua and Rotoiti Action Plan to investigate biomass harvesting. There is interest in algae harvesting from number of possible end users as it is possible to convert algae to useful end products such as bio diesel, activated carbon (for filtration) or possible stock food. We have had a visit from staff of Melbourne Water who are investigating the use of this technique to remove algae from sewage ponds to reduce nutrient concentrations.

There has been significant concern regarding the quality of water flowing down the Ohau Diversion and into Okere Arm and Kaituna. Obviously the wall has been successful in improving the quality of Lake Rotoiti, but people in Okere Arm and the lower Kaituna are not happy with the state of water over the last two autumn periods. This is obviously the result of poor water quality in Lake Rotorua and highlights the need to address the nutrient issues in that lake. Some of the projects that are progressing to assist that recently are the commissioning of the second P locking plant on the Puarenga Stream in January this year. It is expected to take 2 Tonnes of phosphorus out of lake inflows annually and brings the total P locking capacity on Lake Rotorua to 4 Tonnes per year.

At Tikitere contractors are removing the old glasshouses and will soon be constructing the two pilot plants aimed at removing nitrogen from the geothermal flows in that area. Information from the pilot scale work will be used to design the full scale plant aimed at removing 30 Tonnes of nitrogen annually.

The floating wetland project which is a partnership between Environment Bay of Plenty and Te Arawa Lakes Trust is progressing well. Floating wetlands are programmed to be installed at Taheke Marae during June and plans are advanced for further community wetlands in both Lakes Rotoiti and Rotorua.

AQUATIC PEST ISSUES

SUMMER AWARENESS PROGRAMME – As over past summers Environment Bay of Plenty again had summer students out and about at boat ramps and waterways right through the region spreading the Check Clean and Dry message to prevent the spread of Didymo and other Aquatic Pests. Preventing the spread of these pests which have the potential to impact heavily on the biodiversity and recreational values of the Rotorua Lakes is every lake user's responsibility; we all need to be aware of what we need to do. Remember Check Clean and Dry to stop the spread of Aquatic Pests.

HORNWORT INCURSION IN LAKE OKATAINA – You may be aware of the recent find of a site of the highly invasive aquatic weed hornwort In Lake Okataina, this find has highlighted the need for lake users to be extra careful to remove all weed fragments from their gear when moving between lakes. The Okataina hornwort site likely originated as a fragment of weed attached to an anchor, the site has been treated and will continue to be monitored with the long term aim of eradication.

LAKEWEED HARVESTING AT LAKE ROTOEHU – Lakeweed harvesting is almost complete at Lake Rotoehu, the harvesting is part of the ongoing nutrient management programme for this Lake. Over this season almost 2,500 tonnes of Lakeweed have been removed from Rotoehu; this is slightly down on last year's total of over 3,000 tonnes.

WEED CORDON MATAHI SPIT LAKE ROTOMA – A second weed cordon net is to be installed at Lake Rotoma, the second weed cordon will be placed at the Matahi Spit boat ramp and like the existing cordon at the Merge Lodge ramp is designed to prevent weed fragments that have been dropped off trailers from spreading out into the Lake. Like the existing cordon, the Matahi cordon will be marked with Port and Starboard navigation buoys and lights. The cordon is expected to be installed by the end of June.

WEED CONTROL PROGRAMME – Land Information New Zealand, who are the Central Government funding body for lake weed control will continue to fund the targeting of new incursions of weed into lakes, and will also be treating areas of weed adjacent to boat ramps. Environment Bay of Plenty will continue to advise LINZ of the highest priority areas to treat.



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A GOOD DAY'S BOATING

CAN BE SPOILT BEFORE IT BEGINS BY A LACK OF BOAT RAMP ETIQUETTE

We've all seen it: the turkey who arrives unprepared on the boat ramp and holds everyone up while they muck around loading lunch, liquids and lifejackets into their boat... It's common sense really, but here are a few tips to help you launch your boat quickly:

Before you leave home: Check the boat is properly secured to the trailer, check it's fuelled up, check all your safety gear is aboard

On arrival at the boat ramp: park well clear of the ramp while you stow your lunch and other loose items in the boat, remove the boat tie-downs and get the motor ready to go, have a painter or bow line ready to use, check the bungs are in!

Ready to launch: move onto the ramp – don't forget to use the handbrake, disconnect boat

from the trailer and ease your boat into the water, using the bow rope for control, move your boat to one side to avoid blocking the ramp, drive your vehicle up the ramp and park it considerably

After – hopefully – a great day out on the water, don't forget to approach the boat ramp slowly – five knots or fast walking pace is the speed limit within 200 metres of the water's edge. Wait your turn, if there's a queue.

Retrieving your boat: unwind sufficient winch wire to reach the bow and have the winch handle ready, retrieve your boat as quickly as possible so others may use the ramp, connect the safety chain, tow the boat off the ramp not blocking other ramp users

Near the boat ramp, out of everybody's way:

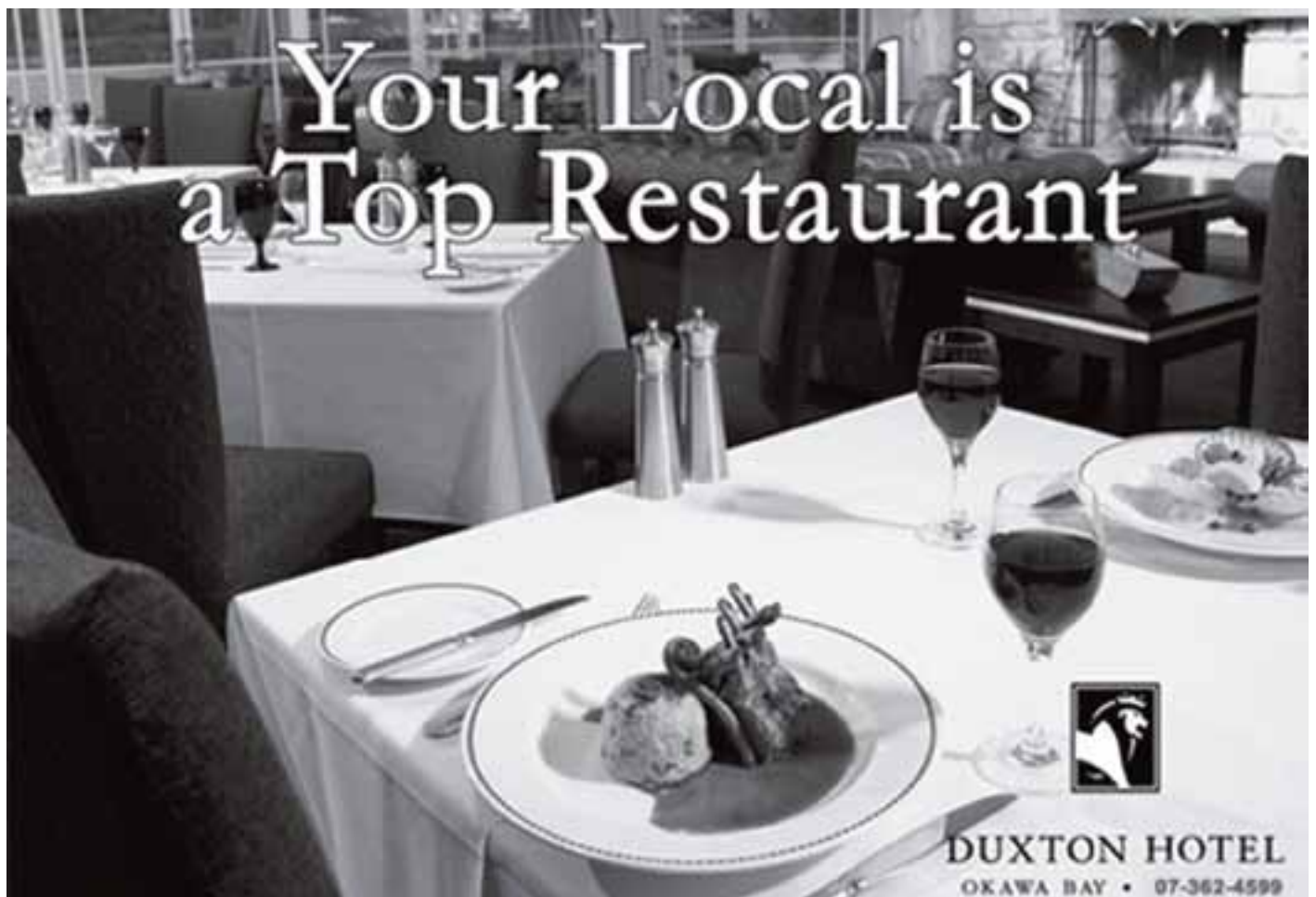
secure the boat tie-downs and check brake lights are working, tilt the motor up and fit the leg support, remove the bungs to drain any water out of the boat, turn off the battery and electrics, fit a hi-viz prop flag to the propeller, remove loose items from your boat so that they don't blow away when you're on the road

Remember, care, courtesy and common sense are the key points of good boat ramp etiquette. In fact, if everyone used a bit of common sense, we wouldn't need to have so many rules...


Good fishing; safe boating!

CAPTAIN JENNIFER ROBERTS

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LAKE ROTOITI CLASSIC & WOODEN BOAT ASSOCIATION

PARADE OF THE WOODEN BOATS - LAKE ROTOITI

The first idea for a Parade of the Wooden Boats came from a discussion between two local residents, Gillian Marks and Lindsay Brighouse, who knew of many fine old launches rotting away quietly in sheds and alongside jetties around Rotoiti.

Many of these boats were relics of the days of the "great old families" who used Rotoiti as their playground in the 1930s-50s era. They were of the dynasties of the Hellabies, Rendalls, Coles, Stevensons, Leary's, Winstones, Laidlaws, Clarkes, Wilson's [to name just a few] In many ways the "who's who" of Auckland society in those days.

Because there weren't many roads around the lake then, they got around Rotoiti in these fine old launches. Each boat being designed to its own family's needs. But as the kids grew up, the families dispersed, and in many cases the family launch was displaced by the ubiquitous "fizz" boats which infest many of our waterways these days.

The original idea was to get these historic old ships out of their sheds for just one day to see what would happen. As the saying goes – "the rest is history"! The original pair of Gillian and Lindsay were joined by Morrin Cooper, Brentleigh Bond and Phil Cunningham who were helped by many locals and after much arm twisting and enthusiasm – 34 boats made their way cautiously to the start line on Waitangi Day 1998. Waitangi Day was chosen because this was the way Rotoiti wanted to celebrate this special day – Our way – and it still is.

The local Whanau joined in most

enthusiastically – with two Whaka leading the Parade out of the Okere Arm – and this wonderful tradition remains to this day. The first Parade was an absolute "hoot"! Many of the old boats had not been used for years. They were dirty and mechanically dodgy. Three broke down and two nearly sank during the first cruise. But it was fascinating with many of the crews in fancy dress and the boats ranged from an undertakers hearse [complete with coffin] to a genuine duckshooters Mai-Mai – pushed along by a little outboard and with a machine gun on top! Many photos exist of this first parade – with the boats all tied up to a huge 330 metre line stretching out from the Okere Arm shore to a very unstable stake driven into the lake bed. The jostling and manoeuvring to get everyone secure – assisted by many highly potent toasts to the successful skippers – had to be seen to be believed!

But it was huge fun, and everyone knew that we had started something very special here on Lake Rotoiti. And it was to become a regular event on Waitangi Day weekend. A uniquely Rotoiti happening.

The event grew until the huge 2000 bi-centenary Parade led by the magnificent Arawa Whaka landed on Rakeiao Marae to a full ceremonial welcome and lunch in the Marae. One hundred and twenty boats participated on this day and it will be long remembered by many crews for the traditional welcome to the Marae and the good fellowship.

Since then the Parade has become one of New

Zealand's most significant inland waterway annual events. In 2004-5 the original group withdrew and to safeguard the event for the future, a properly constituted association, named the Lake Rotoiti Classic and Wooden Boat Association was set up. Numerous local residents have served as officers and committee, and events such as fishing contests, picnics, poker trips and a glorious light parade are held. Most of Rotoiti's larger beaches have been used to land the parade, and about 65-70 boats of all shapes and sizes attend.

Most importantly, the Association has been instrumental in establishing the vital navigation light networks, the building of five composting toilets on several beaches with help of local authorities, and the clearing of many choice landing spots – in co-operation with local land owners. All to make the lake a better place.

But surely the most interesting thing the Parade has achieved is the pride local folk now have in their boats. Rotoiti now has a fleet of beautiful classic boats, unequalled by any other provincial town in the country. And more are launched every year. Excellent historical records are kept of each classic boat and webmaster Eric Cameron's superb website www.woodenboatparade.co.nz gets many thousands of hits each year from all over the world.

The annual Parade of the Wooden Boats is a very special event. It is unique to Lake Rotoiti, which is, of course, undoubtedly Rotorua's most beautiful lake.



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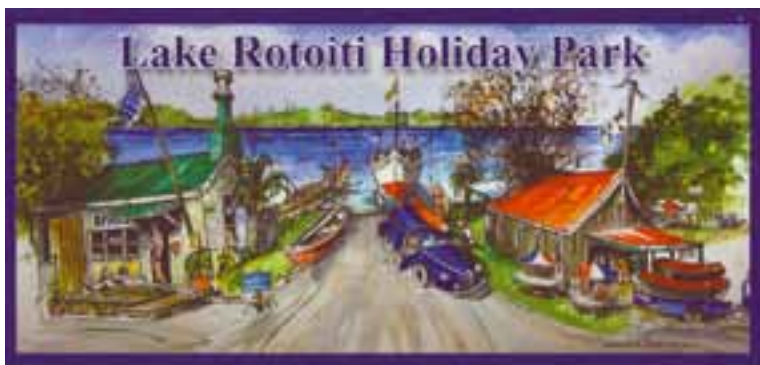
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LAKES ROTOMA AND ROTOEHU **RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

A well attended Annual General Meeting attracted good speakers and local Councillors and the ongoing Chairman declared the main aims for the year as being

- Reform of the Leaseholders Association
- Progressing the Rotoma/Rotoehu Sewerage reticulation scheme
- Revising the Constitution to attract funding for Community Projects
- Strengthening the present Neighbourhood Watch

As with other Lakes the need to work closely with RDC, EBOP, the Lakes Community Board and the LakesWater Quality Society to improve water quality and services to our Lakes was emphasised.

The Rotoma Action Plan has now been approved with nine core actions aimed at reducing nitrogen and phosphorus flowing into the Lake and the hard working committee has now been disbanded. The Harbour Wardens have been very busy on both Lakes and increased patrols by Harbour Masters boats combined with the handing out of educational leaflets have seen a definite improvement.

Steel gates have been erected close to the shore of Lake Rotoma to prevent boats being towed

and launched in areas other than the official boat launch pad where there is a weed cordon to prevent Hornwort weed entering the Lake if carried there from other Lakes.

The Resource Consent Hearing for a Geothermal Power Station at Rotoma (affecting the Waitangi Springs and Lake Rotoehu) had a second hearing in May. The members of the appointed sub-committee spoke on behalf of the residents – many of whom had submitted written comments and were not permitted to speak unless they had done so at the previous hearing. The Commissioners requested more time to consider details in the technical areas and rights under Section 104(2) of the Act. The final outcome is awaited.

Curbing and channelling to control flooding problems in Oxford Road has been completed.

Lake Rotoehu has had a further 2744 tonnes of Hornwort weed removed and when the harvesters visited Otoutu Bay they could find none. However, there is a great deal in the further arms of the Lake and EBOP are trialling various approved chemicals with which to spray such areas. Construction is under way on a phosphorus locking plant that is expected

to remove approx. 700 kg of Phosphorous from the Waitangi Soda Springs area inflow into the Lake and deep trenches are at present being dug, electric power installed and a wide turning area constructed to accommodate the eight wheeled trucks that will deliver Alum for the plant.

All the properties around Lake Rotoehu have been surveyed and marked for the Sewage Reticulation Scheme – residents were canvassed with regard to joining the proposed Rotoma scheme and a strong majority were in favour.

EBOP held a BBQ at Otoutu Bay, for residents of all three inhabited bays and a goodly number attended to be advised of future plans for the area on an exceptionally wet Saturday. It must be noted that there are very few permanent residents around Lake Rotoehu.

Our Community Board Councillor Phillip Karouna is standing down at the forthcoming Council elections and must be thanked for his efforts on our behalf. We now hope for suitable Candidates to be proposed or come forward to serve our area for the next three years.

CATHERINE BRANSON

LOCAL ELECTIONS ARE ON THEIR WAY

– ARE YOU ENROLLED TO VOTE?

There are elections this year – and that means everyone enrolled to vote has the chance to vote for their local council and district health board members.

Voting papers get sent out in the mail, so you will only be able to have your say if you are correctly enrolled to vote.

Have you moved house lately? Recently turned 18 or become eligible to vote, or haven't enrolled at all yet?

Now is the chance to get enrolled and ready

to vote when the elections get here.

You can enrol if you:

- are 18 years of age or older; and
- have lived in New Zealand for more than one year continuously at some time in your life
- are a New Zealand citizen who has been in New Zealand some time in the past three years
- are a permanent resident (with that stamped in your passport) who has lived in New Zealand for one year

Enrolling is easy. Enrolment forms are available from the elections website www.elections.org.nz.

elections.org.nz, by free texting your name and address to 3676, from your local PostShop or by calling 0800 ENROL NOW (0800 36 76 56). You can also check your details and enrol online at the website.

In July if you are enrolled you will receive an enrolment update pack in the mail to check that your details are correct.

To find out more or enrol visit www.elections.org.nz.

Local Elections 2010
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BETWEEN WATERWAYS

ST MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH MOUREA 1907

Most of the community will now be aware that the restoration of St Mary's Church was virtually completed earlier in the year and some will have been amongst the more than 100 in attendance at the splendid re-dedication service held on 31 January 2010. There remains only a small amount of outside groundwork to be completed.

This has been the culmination of 4 years in progress and has been hugely satisfying for all involved, particularly Te Ngae Parish, the Rotoiti community, and the Trustees set up to manage the project. Obviously, the work could not have been achieved without the substantial contributions made through grants and donations, especially the major donors including NZ Lotteries Heritage Committee, First Sovereign Trust, Ngati Pikiao Combined Trusts and Incorporations, and Rotorua Energy Charitable and Bay Trusts. We sincerely thank these organizations, and everyone else who has assisted materially or otherwise in the restoration of this historically significant church.

Unfortunately, few former accounts of the church have been located. The pumice flagstone at the front entrance, which has been kindly rejuvenated by Grays Funeral Services to enhance the inscription, is dated 1907. From its original guise, it is known that the church received some renovations in 1936. The late Don Stafford was also

aware of some previous work being carried out in the early 1920's. However, it is understood that several earlier sources of record, notably the Lakes Chronicle, were later inadvertently destroyed; highlighting the difficulty in locating some of its history.

What we do know is that the church was one of three built through the fund-raising efforts of the Rev Frederick Augustus Bennett and his established Māori Concert Party in the early 20th century. It is also the last remaining church within the Lake Rotoiti catchment. Sadly, few of the early congregators are still with us today, but anecdotal evidence abounds amongst the present local generation of the many past events associated with the church. Regular services by Anglicans and other denominations, along with the occasional wedding ceremony, were held in the church until around 2004 when the building was deemed somewhat unsafe and closed for public use. Until this year, services continued to be held at Te Takinga Marae, especially at Easter and Christmas.

The church has re-commenced its regular Anglican services which are held on the third Sunday of each month at 9.00am. These services are open to all and the Parish extends a warm welcome to anyone who wishes to attend. Any enquiries can be made to the Rev Joe Huta Tel 07 3454427



FISH & GAME

SUMMER SURVEYS

During the summer of 2009-10 Fish & Game staff completed 24 angler creel surveys on Lake Rotoiti in which 584 anglers were interviewed and 159 fish measured. A quick look at the data shows that the catch rate was down fractionally on the 2008-09 summer with one fish caught for every five hours angling. This follows on from reports that some anglers found the fishing quite hard especially just after Christmas. Once the data has been fully analysed, the Summer Survey Report will be written up and posted on the Eastern Region Fish & Game website (www.fishandgame.org.nz)

TROUT LIBERATIONS

Fish & Game have recently completed the autumn liberations to Rotoiti for the 2010 year. A total of 14,000 RpAd (Right pelvic and adipose fin) clipped and 500 tagged (10R) 1 year olds were released at the following points – Ruato Bay, Quarry, Dump, Transformer and Hinehopu. The area encompassing these liberation points forms the Winter Shoreline Fishing Area that remains open to 'shoreline' angling year round. The trout return toward the liberation beaches as 3 or 4 year olds when mature in order to spawn and can be targeted by the Winter anglers.

WINTER SURVEYS

Winter Creel surveys have been underway since the start of May on Lakes Rotoiti, Okataina and Tarawera. Surveys are conducted by Fish & Game rangers and will run until the end of July 2010. These surveys when added to Opening Day and Summer Surveys provide us with important information regarding the health of the fishery and assist in making management decisions such as our liberation strategies. These surveys are relatively painless, and involve a few questions as we weigh and measure your catch. Please ensure you carry your fishing licence on you at all times when fishing and we thank you for your co-operation.

To date on Rotoiti, we have interviewed 100+ anglers, the majority of whom have provided perception that states the start to this winter fishing season has been better than last winter. Its still early days but the fish size has been good averaging 626mm 3.45kg.

MATT OSBORNE,

FISH & GAME NZ. EASTERN REGION

BAY OF PLENTY TRAILER YACHT SQUADRON OKAWA BAY, ROTORUA

REVIEW OF THE 2009/2010 SAILING SEASON ON LAKE ROTOITI

When a local organization is invited to submit a summary of its activities for a Community Newsletter, it is a great opportunity for a little critical naval gazing, a bit of stocktaking and a lot of imagination – which I'll endeavour to control for the sake of informative honesty.

The Bay of Plenty Trailer Yacht Squadron (BOPTYS) is a well established local resource for sailors from around the Bay of Plenty, across the Central North Island and even, in one case, Christchurch. Best guesses place us as the second largest Trailer Yacht Squadron in the country.

From its base at Okawa Bay Marina, where Members have access to a small clubhouse, moorings, a launching ramp, extensive jetties, a secure car park and a fully fenced secure compound for rigged yachts, our Members are able to access some of the very best inland sailing waters in New Zealand.

Although all of the yachts have the capacity to be towed and launched onto many of our local lakes and even the Hauraki Gulf, the majority of our approximately 140 Members spend their time sailing on Lake Rotoiti.

For the more adventurous yachties in BOPTYS, competition in the 100 miler, 50 miler, 30 mile Sprint or the Round Waiheke Race often results in placings which recognize the sailing skills many of our Members have developed over numerous seasons on the water.

Local yacht races are organized throughout the year but are reduced from weekly events to monthly race days during the winter months.

A number of Members forsake racing, however, in favour of lake cruising, or generally messing about on the water.

Non-racing yachties usually exploit their preferences for sailing, fishing, relaxing or socialising and often their individual choices are integrated into activities organised by BOPTYS.

So, if I look back on the last season what stands out?

The 2009/2010 season was to be a period of relaxed normality after three years of planning and organization which culminated in the 2009 IFDS World Blind Sailing Championships held in March 2009 on Lake Rotorua.

This event was planned, organized and hosted by BOPTYS and involved eleven international teams (Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Norway, the USA and New Zealand) representing their countries in matched yachts.

Anyone who has been involved in such an event will realize the workload which rested on the shoulders of a small, energetic and committed team which accepted responsibility for the event from the time New Zealand was selected to be the 2009 host and coordinated the activities until the last chair was stacked and the last yacht was returned to its owner.

Inevitably, the thrill of sailing on Lake Rotoiti, free from the pressures of planning a world championship, soon took over, and those most intimately involved in the Blind Sailing Championship were quickly bellowing "greetings" and "congratulations" (as sailors do being gentlemen all) across the winter race courses organised as the weather allowed.

One of the most memorable events off the water was an attempt to begin the de-hibernation process for Members.

Matt Horder (the Skipper of Tiua, otherwise known as "the big cat" – usually moored outside the Duxton Hotel) was invited to a Nog 'n' Natter held in June to explain how he sailed the large catamaran from the West Indies to Okawa Bay (not via the Kaituna as some hopeful suggested) where it now provides exciting opportunities for sailors and non-sailors to experience the gin palace lifestyle not previously available on Rotoiti.

In contrast, the harder "social" sailors enjoyed rather wet and windy weather throughout the winter months which apparently did wonders for share prices linked to the production and sales of navy rum.

As always, the new season dawned and the first major open regatta on Lake Rotoiti – The Rotoiti Ice Breaker Regatta – was organised and sailed in wonderful spring weather in late September.

Lulled by this great start to the season, The BOPTYS Opening Cruise was launched for the brave and energetic over Labour Weekend but sadly, many of the brave and energetic

remained huddled around their wood fires missing a lively weekend of less than serious racing and great socialisation.

And with Labour Weekend out of the way, the season truly got going.

Starting with a Christmas Cruise on Tiua (aka "the big cat"), then the BOPTYS Annual Rum Race which has a lot to do with Rum and very little to do with Racing.

Then an extended series of BOPTYS Olympic Course and Round the Lake Racing events fill the early summer weeks culminating in the Summer Regatta hosted by Napier Sailing Club and the Hauraki Gulf races hosted by Waikato Yacht Squadron.

To round the season off, Lake Cruises were organised on both Lake Rotoiti and Lake Tarawera over the Easter Weekend in 2010 and we watched with envy as multi – hulled, multi – million dollar craft competed for the Americas Cup.

In my article in The Mainsheet, the BOPTYS magazine published in March, I commented that: "On Wednesday Race Nights I think we have more fun and it's definitely cheaper."

I still think that is true – the year round activities of BOPTYS, on the water and off, are all about having fun in an environment which competes successfully with most beautiful sailing venues the world has to offer.

At the end of June 2010, BOPTYS will hold its Annual General Meeting and elect a new Management Committee for the coming season and, later the same day, prizes will be presented to those who took their sailing seriously enough to consistently stay on top of the water long enough to cross the winning line in front of the other yachts.

I fully expect the future programme of activities to replicate the long established and successful pattern which has been in place for some years. There will undoubtedly be changes somewhere but with "fun" as the guiding principle its unlikely the new Committee will take the wrong course.

BILL BRISLEN | REAR COMMODORE
BAY OF PLENTY TRAILER YACHT SQUADRON
BOX 2263, ROTORUA, 3040

THANK YOU

LRCA would like to thank **Dennis Falconer of Audio Visual Techniques** for his tremendous support and assistance in providing us with sound and screening equipment for the public meetings held on 3rd January and 6th May.

Lake Rotoiti Holiday Park have been very generous in providing the use of their hall to the community and our Society would like to thank them for this.

The community has been able to view details for the forthcoming sewage reticulation schemes first hand and to meet to discuss water quality in the Okere Arm thanks to this generosity.



Gaylene Smith

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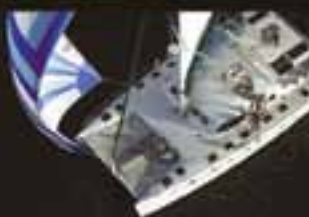


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