



Lake Rotoiti Community Association Incorporated



Looking West from Ruato Bay

Kia Ora from Lake Rotoiti

As the Lake once again fills with fly-fishermen we know that winter has arrived, although the weather we've had this year might not indicate that fact! After a beautiful summer the fine weather has continued on through Autumn, perhaps that has something to do with the fact that work has kept me away from Rotoiti all this year!

Just as the weather has been kind, many other aspects of life around the Lake have been good – we had a summer bloom-free, our new Community Board is functioning well, Central Government has committed \$72 million towards the restoration of the Rotorua Lakes, and the Diversion Wall although delayed will be completed soon.

The Central Government funding means that sewerage schemes around the lakes can now go ahead, so we expect designs and pricing for Rotoiti's schemes to be developed. Nutrient inflow from Tikitere will also be addressed, so along with the Diversion Wall the main direct flows of nutrients into the Lake will be tackled. This leaves the nutrients entering the water table as the major issue to be faced – we must look at land use change.

Land use change is a huge issue that faces all the Rotorua lakes, and as such is more suitably tackled at this stage by organisations that span all the lakes. The Lakes WaterQuality Society has fought as long and hard for all the lakes in Rotorua as we have fought for Lake Rotoiti, and now efforts to achieve land use change are being focused through that group, with support from individual community and ratepayer groups. LWQS is organising a

Symposium later this year, information is available on their website, www.lakeswaterquality.co.nz.

While it is still perhaps too early to tell, indications so far are that the Community Board is working well with Council and is proving to be an effective tool for community representation. Its elected members are taken from the various lakes' community or ratepayer groups, with our own treasurer as chairperson of the Board.

The continued fine weather unfortunately doesn't reflect the state your committee finds itself in. Several committee members are also on the committee of LWQS and are heavily involved in fighting for Lakes restoration and protection through that society. Our Treasurer as mentioned is Chair of the Community Board and doesn't have the amount of time (nor would it be appropriate perhaps) to be as involved in LRCA as in the past. Work commitments have also seen some committee members unable to participate as much as they would like. This all means that despite having some new able and keen committee members join us this year, your committee is still very depleted and is in desperate need to have community members step forward and assist us. If you are interested in having a strong community association and representation please consider putting yourself forward to be co-opted onto committee. Contact any committee member (details on back page of this newsletter) for information on doing this.

Phill Thomass

REPORT FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

Almost half of the year has flown by already. The totality of your Committee's focus this year has been upon the projected change by RDC from a land value rating system to a capital value system, with the concurrent abandonment of the historic urban/rural residential differential ("the urban fence").

Your Committee is currently working with the Combined Lakes Association to present if possible, a combined voice in the upcoming submissions to Council. Individual ratepayers can assess the impact such a change will make on their own rates by accessing the RDC website, and using the individual assessment facility on it.

The individual impact is variable, area by area and site by site. Some up and some down. The abandonment of the currently 70% differential of rural residential rates to urban, is something we are working on. Simplistically it can be submitted that the differential (i.e. rural residential pays 70% of the urban rate), should be retained, as if not, with both sectors paying equally, there is not a level playing field. This especially applies to sewage and waste water. The rural residential sector have long contributed through general rating to the costs of urban sewage facilities.

But under the proposed new scheme, the two sectors will be treated alike with **no** differential, and those in rural residential areas will be left to pay a very considerable sum for their own individual sewage and waste water all on their own.

Your Association does not necessarily object to the change from land to capital value as this is generally in line with the Shand Report delivered to the Government. That Report **did** suggest the abolition of differentials and uniform annual general charges (UAGC). However the RDC proposal **retains** a differential for the commercial sector and **also includes** every rate payer contributing a UACG of \$350 in substitution for the current \$430 charge.

We believe Council cannot use the Shand Report selectively by both keeping the UACG and one form of differential (commercial) but selectively abolishing the urban fence.

At the time of writing we hope through the Combined Lakes Association (Rotoiti, Rotoma/Rotoehu, Okareka and Tawawera) to get a common approach, but if not your Association will make submissions solely on behalf of the Lake Rotoiti Community Association.

Lastly we are happy to see that the Community Board which your Association was instrumental in obtaining, is initially working well. Now is the time to let our Board member, Brentleigh Bond, (grahamb@clear.net.nz) know of any project however large or small needing attention in your area so that he can include it the Community Board's upcoming submission to Council. Further you should email Brentleigh directly if you have any particular thoughts on the rating issues set out above.

Subscriptions

Accompanying this newsletter is a subscription notice. We are fortunate to have a high level of membership from our community, and would be pleased to receive your ongoing support this year. Please don't forget to supply a current email address as email becomes an ever more important means of communication for us.

Communicating with You: The Need for Email Addresses

With the arrival of our Community Board, the way your Association interacts with you our members, other local organisations, the Community Board and Council itself is changing. Often now we have shorter notice of events or issues arising in the community and we need to have effective means of informing you of these. We see email as being an integral tool in this.

It is very encouraging to have such a high number of residents and ratepayers who are currently financial members of the Association. We believe a number of the issues that we work through during the year are important to you all and the high level of support from the community we enjoy makes it worthwhile.

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

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

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

Regards to you and many thanks for your continued support.

LRCA

Your Association Needs You!

This year has seen many changes in our local 'landscape'. The Community Board is up and running and working well, Central Government has committed \$72 million towards the restoration and protection of our lakes, and Rotoiti's Diversion Wall is now in place.

These changes have also meant many changes for your Association. The completion of the Diversion Wall and commitment of funds to sewerage schemes around the Lake means that a lot of efforts that have been going into saving Rotoiti now need to be redirected towards all Rotorua Lakes and the very difficult issues of Land Management and Land Use Change. Lakes Water Quality Society is seen as the best vehicle for championing these issues by the local community groups around the lakes and several of your committee are involved with LWQS where work-loads have increased dramatically. Our Treasurer is also our representative on the Community Board, and the work load associated with that role along with the need to keep at arm's length on some issues means that he is also not able to be as involved in LRCA as previously. In addition changing work commitments have further reduced the amount of time available for committee members.

All this means that we desperately need new people to put themselves forward to work with committee! We are able to co-opt people onto committee and we ask everyone to consider if you are able to take a more active role within your association by joining us on committee this year.

Committee membership need not be overly onerous, we meet once a month, with meeting dates alternating between weekends and week days to allow non-Rotoiti residents to be able to attend. There are also council (both RDC and EnvBOP) meetings on occasion. The main requirement of a committee member is a commitment to our wonderful lake and its environs.

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

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

The establishment of the Community Board has not removed the need for a strong local Community Association. As can be seen from the Board's submissions to Council (reprinted on Page 19 of this newsletter) its role is to act on behalf of the whole Lakes Community, we still need a strong LRCA to put forward the case on issues particular to Rotoiti as well as our own perspective on wider issues.

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

If you are interested in helping the committee, or would like to know more about what is required, please contact any committee member, contact details are on the back page.



Aquatic Pests

Over the 2007/08 season Aquatic weed spraying has been carried out around boat ramps at Otaramarae and Gisborne Point, these areas have been treated to reduce the risk of weed snagging on boat trailers and spreading to other Lakes. A new infestation of Hornwort, a weed with the reputation as being amongst of the worst offenders of a large list of aquatic weeds was found in Lake Okataina. This isolated infestation was treated and the area will be monitored to ensure that Okataina is kept free of this weed.

Summer students were employed from late November through to February to spread the word on the risks of Aquatic Pests including Didymo, our two students Ngaio and Clint did a great job at events and boat ramps over that busy period, among the interesting statistics that the students collected included the Region of Origin of Lake Users. A large percentage of Lake users were from outside of the Bay of Plenty Region with a very high number from the Waikato where pest fish such as Koi Carp and Catfish are present, this drives home the need to be constantly vigilant to prevent the spread of these pests into our lakes as once established they would be virtually impossible to eradicate.

This year has shown an increase in the presence of aquatic weeds. This increase is the flipside of the improved water clarity that has been so marked this year. The improved clarity due to decreased algal blooms, results in light reaching down to greater depths and this encourages the weeds to grow. Hornwort in particular has been noticeable; this shallow rooted weed reaches its peak growth through March/April, when it often breaks free to raft up and can

be carried by the wind onto shorelines and form unpleasant strandings. Strandings have been an issue in Okawa Bay, this situation will be monitored and if the weed looks likely to emerge as an issue over the 2008/09 summer season recommendations will be made to treat this area with diquat herbicide.

Weed harvesting using a paddle wheel driven weed cutter has been carried out on Lake Rotoehu as part of the action plan to manage nutrients in this Lake; to date 600 tonnes of Hornwort equalling 720kgs of nitrogen has been removed from the area adjacent to Soda Springs.

Environment Bay of Plenty continues to be involved in the sponsorship of events such as the recent Tagged Trout Tournament held on Lake Rotorua. Events such as this attract a large number of out of town entrants this gives an opportunity to get the important message out to preserve our Lakes to both visitors and locals.



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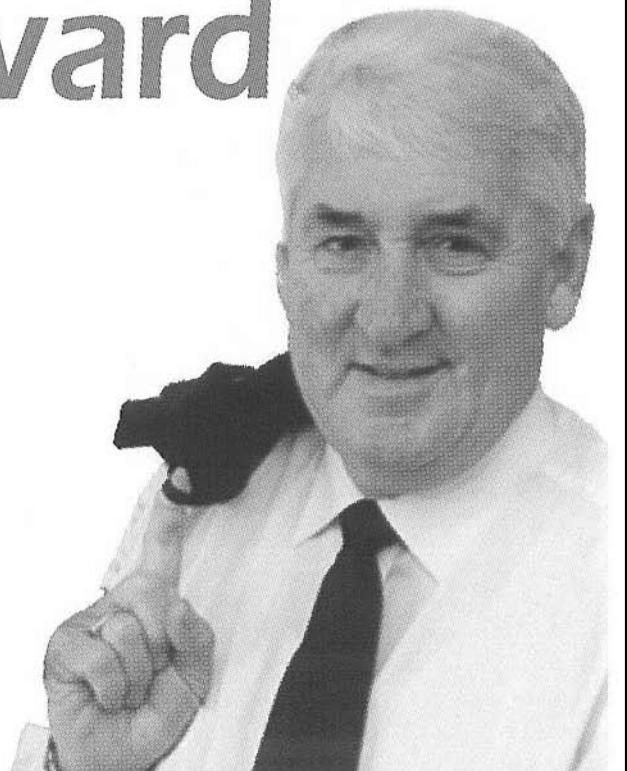
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Lakes WaterQuality Society Report

To members of Lake Rotoiti Community Association 2008 has been a good year for Lake Rotoiti. Most members will have noticed a high level of clarity in the water. No, the diversion wall has not been the reason for this situation although its "almost completion" will have helped. We believe the two main contributors have been the lack of strong south westerly winds which usually stir up Lake Rotorua sediments and bring them down the Ohau Channel into Lake Rotoiti. The other factor was that very little rain fell in the Lake's catchment over the summer months and this has resulted in lower levels of nutrient run-off from the land.

The lake did have areas where algal blooms occurred, but they were very small blue-greens (picocyanobacteria) which are much less visible to the naked eye. Pleasingly Okawa Bay had very low algal counts throughout the summer period. There concerns are more to do with weed growth.

In reality, we will have to wait a couple more summers to get a true test of the wall.

The highlight of the year to date was the Government's announcement of \$72.1 million of capital grants to both EBOP and RDC to carry out Lake Protection Programmes for Lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti, Rotoehu and Okareka. Our congratulations go to EBOP, RDC and Te Arawa for the hard and very professional work their respective teams put into developing the case for funding support. Our special

thanks go to Steve Chadwick for championing this very important Government initiative for cleaning up our Lakes. It was most fitting that the announcement was made by the Prime Minister at the Houmaitawhiti Marae, Otaramarae, on Lake Rotoiti.

Most of you will have been monitoring the progress of the Ohau Diversion wall. Delays have been caused by repairs needed to the barge and capping the top of the wall at the Ohau Channel end with steel beams as opposed to the wooden planks which were used at the Okere outlet end of the wall. Completion date is a little uncertain, however, it is not far away.

LWQS is hosting our sixth Symposium on 12 and 13 August at the Heritage Rotorua Hotel on *Nutrient Sensitive Zones – Lakes and Waterways*. We have a wonderful line up of speakers from overseas and nationally. We encourage you to attend as the subject has become a very important issue for New Zealand, given the country's reliance on agriculture as its primary export earner. Please visit our website www.lakeswaterquality.co.nz for further information.

As you can see, a lot is happening and it is all good for Lake Rotoiti.

John Green
Chairman

Lakes WaterQuality Symposium 2008

Nutrient Sensitive Zones – Nitrogen and Phosphorus, Lakes and Waterways

12th - 13th August 2008 at the Heritage Hotel, Rotorua, New Zealand

New Zealand's lakes and waterways are under serious threat from intensive land use, yet farming is the export earner which underpins the economy.

The Lakes WaterQuality Society 2008 Symposium will use current scientific knowledge about nutrients and lakes, along with proposed freshwater management policy to examine how farming and ecology can be balanced.

European and New Zealand perspectives on nutrient management, the dairying perspective, policy proposals and the national and regional economic effects of change provide the framework for presentations and discussions.

The Symposium Programme covers two days and speakers include international and national academics, leading experts and industry representatives.

To Register or for more information, go to

www.lakeswaterquality.co.nz

or contact us at

symposium@lakeswaterquality.co.nz



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OKERE FALLS / OTARAMARAE / WHANGAMARINO SEWERAGE SCHEME

Progress update May 2008.

Central Government recently announced the approval of about \$72M funding subsidy to the Rotorua Lakes Protection and Restoration Programme of which about \$32M has been allocated to the Rotorua Lakeside Communities Sewerage Scheme Programme.

The Okere Falls/ Otaramarae/ Whangamarino Sewerage Scheme with an estimated cost of \$14.7 million are part of the Rotorua Lakeside Communities Sewerage Scheme Programme. Based on the Central Government subsidy announced, it is envisaged the scheme will receive a funding subsidy of \$7.35M spread over four years starting from July 2008.

The detailed engineering design of the scheme is currently underway which includes establishing the location of the Low Pressure Grinder Pump Units within each property in consultation with property owners. Notices have been sent to each property regarding this process and majority of the properties have been visited by a Council engineer. If you have not received any notice related to the above, please contact Chris Hartingh at 3484199 or 0274 4189699.

The funding subsidy application to Central Government indicated a programme completion date of the scheme in late 2011. The programme is currently being reviewed to determine the possibility of advancing completion.

Please contact Mark Buckley or Greg Manzano if you have any further queries to the above at 348 4199.

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Proposed Upper Kaituna Hydro Scheme – the energy we need to grow By Bay of Plenty Energy

Generating renewable, local energy to power local growth are the drivers behind Bay of Plenty Energy's (BoPE) proposed Upper Kaituna Hydro Electric Power Scheme.

The proposed location for the scheme is a 3km (approximate) stretch of the Kaituna River, near Rotorua. Once completed it will generate 13.5 MW of electricity, enough to supply up to 10,000 homes or more than 2000 small businesses.

The project is now one step closer to fruition after the Department of Conservation recently granted BoPE approval for a concession to inundate a small part (0.7 hectares) of the Upper Kaituna Scenic Reserve.

The support and long-term commercial partnerships between BoPE and two iwi landowners - Taheke 8C and Ruahine Kuharua Incorporation will make this scheme possible.

The scheme consists of a low profile weir designed to divert a proportion of the river into a 2km (approx) canal. The water passes through a power house below the end of the canal and then returns to the river. The scheme forms a 1km (approx.) narrow lake above the weir, and a residual flow will be left in the river below the section of river between the weir and power house (2km approx).

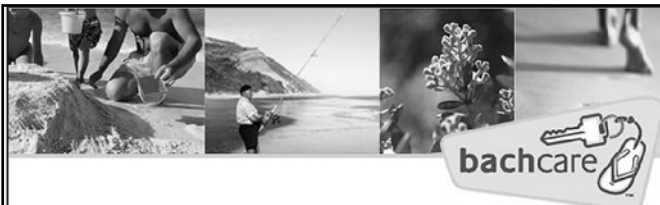
As part of the planning for this small hydro scheme, BoPE has been working to minimise environmental and aesthetic impacts. There will be no impact on the popular recreational areas of Okere Falls and the Trout Pools.



Most of the detailed design work and reports required for the resource consenting process are at an advanced stage, including reports on water quality, ecology of the river and surrounding area, landscaping, the impact on the region's recreational opportunities, traffic impacts, cultural issues, social effects, the economic impact, noise, and transmission line options.

In the coming months, BoPE will apply for resource consents with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council (Environment Bay of Plenty) and the Rotorua District Council. This process will involve further consultation with interested parties including iwi and business groups.

The recent drive to increase New Zealand's renewable energy supply, plus increasing energy prices and concerns regarding stable electricity supplies to the Rotorua region have encouraged BoPE to progress the project. BoPE has appreciated the support that it has received from the business community in the Bay of Plenty region, particularly in Rotorua.



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St Mary's Church Mourea

For whom the bells toll... They toll for thee

However, as of late the bells have fallen silent. An iconic church building that has stood the test of time for over a hundred years bears the scars of a down turn in attendance and mother nature herself.

The wounds of this historic building were such that a decision was made to close the church with a view to either replace or restore.

Restore

The community of Mourea and interested parties were invited to attend a meeting to discuss the two view points. The meeting resolved that the church be restored, retaining its original profile.

Preliminary work has begun on the church at a cost of approx \$19 000 to date. This includes the shifting and re-piling of the church, consultants, engineers reports, Council consents, as well as architectural plans for work required. Still a long way to go and a lot more funding required.

Outcome

The committee is hoping for a completion date close to Christmas, where once again the church will stand tall and proud for the people of Mourea and surrounding district.



The service of the church will include a re-dedication along with its centennial birthday. Yes! St Mary's is 100 years old and we look forward to again opening the doors where families, friends and visitors can join with us in song and praise.

Interested in Contributing?

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



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Didymo Update

Didymo is a real threat to our beautiful lakes and fisheries. Many of us boat and fish not only in our Rotorua lakes but also other waterways in New Zealand. Precautionary cleaning is essential to stop the spread of Didymo through contaminated gear and equipment. Didymo can even be spread through clothing and footwear so you must wash swimwear and footwear between uses in different waterways.

The following information is reproduced from Biosecurity New Zealand's website (www.biosecurity.govt.nz) and gives information on cleaning fishing gear, boats and kayaks. White-baiters should check the Biosecurity website for details on how to clean your nets.



DIDYMO: Legal status: Unwanted Organism (under the Biosecurity Act 1993). It is an offence to knowingly spread an unwanted organism with penalties of up to 5 years imprisonment, and/or a fine of up to \$100,000.

Status: This organism is being investigated in New Zealand. Possible sightings should be reported to 0800 80 99 66.

Didymosphenia geminata (didymo), also known as “rock snot” is a freshwater diatom (a type of alga) and was first reported in New Zealand in the Lower Waiau River in 2004. Didymo is currently found in a number of South Island Rivers. Biosecurity New Zealand has since declared the entire South Island a Controlled Area for Didymo. This means waterways remain open to angling and other recreational activities, but people are legally obliged to prevent the spreading of didymo.

Didymo is a microscopic pest that can be spread by a single drop of water. Even if you can't see it you could be spreading it. Therefore to prevent the spread of didymo you must Check Clean, Dry your gear when going from one waterway to another, everywhere in New Zealand. It is in New Zealand's best interests for you to treat every waterway like it is infected with didymo.

Didymo sometimes forms massive blooms on the bottom of the streams, rivers and lakes. It attaches itself to the stream bed by stalks, and can form a thick brown layer that smothers rocks, submerged plants and other materials. It forms flowing ‘rats tails’ that can turn white at their ends and look similar to tissue paper. As the ‘tails’ of the alga get longer they become white in colour.

Cleaning your equipment:

Fishing and eeling tackle

All rods, reels, fishing lines, flies, tackle boxes, nets, clothing and other equipment should be thoroughly soaked in a decontamination solution. Alternatively, use the hot water treatment or freeze gear until solid. Allow longer time for absorbent items.

After treatment, items may then be rinsed with water that has come from a town water supply. Drying is an acceptable alternative method, provided that all components (such as backing lines, nets and clothing) are completely dry to the touch, inside and out, and then left dry for at least another 48 hours before entering a different waterway.

If you do not want to decontaminate your gear, you should restrict use to a single waterway.

Jet Boats & Skis, Outboard Motor Boats

All boats and trailers should be cleaned thoroughly both inside and out for at least one minute with decontamination solution. In addition, special attention should be given to the following components:

Jet boat grate: manually remove visible clumps of algae from the grate and flush the system with a decontamination solution.

Jet unit: Open ball valve at bottom of sand trap, remove any residue and flush system with a decontamination solution.

Outboard motor: The cooling system should be flushed out with the decontamination solution for the specified time. It may then be flushed again with clean fresh water that has come from a town water supply.

Boat interior including anchor recess: Remove excessive water by removing bungs and then wash interior with a decontamination solution.

Bilge pump: Flush interior of boat with a decontamination solution and then use the bilge pump to expel residual water before bungs are opened. This ensures that the bilge pump is flushed with the solution, and that residual water within the pump will be free of live didymo cells.

Mats, carpet (including carpet on the trailer), anchor rope and other absorbent components: thoroughly soak with decontamination solution allowing extra time for the solution to fully soak through the item.

Drying is an acceptable alternative method, provided that all components are completely dry to the touch, inside and out, and then left dry for at least another 48 hours before entering a different waterway.

If you do not want to decontaminate your gear, you should restrict use to a single waterway.

Other Watercraft

Kayaks, canoes, dinghies and associated equipment and gear should be cleaned thoroughly both inside and out with a decontamination solution. Scrub or spray all exterior parts of the craft with a decontamination solution, ensuring surface contact for at least one minute. Then fill the interior of the craft with the decontamination solution, place all associated equipment, gear and clothing used in the boating activity into the craft, immerse completely and soak for as long as needed to thoroughly penetrate all absorbent items.

The equipment may then be rinsed using water that has come from a town water supply.

Drying is an acceptable alternative method, provided that all components are completely dry to the touch, inside and out, and then left dry for at least another 48 hours before entering a different waterway.

Freezing small items is another option.

Too much housecleaning is bad for you and your septic tank!

Did you know that you could be killing your septic tank with kindness? Many household cleaning products contain chemicals which can damage the 'useful bugs' in your septic tank. If the good bacteria die the system will not work correctly, leading to offensive odours and increased maintenance, hurting your wallet.

When household wastewater goes into your septic tank the 'sludge' will remain there, while the water loaded with nutrients filters through a seepage system back into the ground. Nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) in wastewater leach from the soil, though the groundwater into the lakes. This contributes to algal blooms and potentially pollutes the drinking water that our families rely on.

So what is the answer, no more cleaning? Not quite, but you can make a big difference to your septic system by watching what you put into it. When shopping, check the product label to see what it contains... go for phosphate-free detergents with low sodium levels. You get good value for money with eco products as they are more concentrated; so you use less. New Zealand made products are even better!

Involve the whole family, make your own cleaners! Keep the kids busy these school holidays, reduce skin allergies, help the environment and save \$\$\$\$ at the same time. Try out these substitutes:

Regular cleaner: Use baking soda, vinegar and Borax; mix with water or use straight for a more powerful clean. Put 2 tsp baking soda (or more if required) into a 500mL spray bottle of water, adding 10-15 drops of essential oils such as lavender or orange.

Window cleaner: 2 tbsp white vinegar in 500mL spray bottle of water

Disinfectant: 1 cup Borax in bucket of water (8-litre)

Find cheap and healthy ways to care for your home!

Check out some websites; here are a few examples:

<http://www.envbop.govt.nz/Water/Lakes/Living-Near-Lakes.asp>

<http://www.reducerubbish.govt.nz/shop/tips.html>

<http://www.timaru.govt.nz/pdf/toxicfree.pdf>

<http://www.ecan.govt.nz/Our+Environment/Waste/Hazardous+Waste/safe-substitutes.htm>

<http://www.sustainablehouseholds.org.nz/links1.htm>

Jenny Clarke, Environment Bay of Plenty



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Notes from Environment Bay of Plenty

As you will now all be aware the Strategic Partners of Environment Bay of Plenty, Rotorua District Council and Te Arawa Lakes Trust have received confirmation of their successful bid for funding for the Rotorua Lakes Protection and Restoration Programme of \$71.2 m. This funding request was targeted at the four priority lakes which are Rotorua, Rotoiti, Rotoehu and Okareka. The reason why we focused on these four lakes is that we have very well formulated plans for their protection and restoration which have been through the community process (Rotorua, Rotoiti still under committee consideration). This funding comprises half of the funding for the works around these four lakes. This is a significant contribution and an impressive commitment for the next 10 years for the programme.

You will also be interested in what projects this money will be spent. Around about half of the money is targeted towards sewerage reticulation schemes for three of the lakes (Rotorua, Rotoiti, Okareka) and the remaining money is targeted at interventions within the lakes and around the lakes as well land management change. This includes treatment of the Tikitere flow to reduce nitrogen, more phosphorus locking in streams, capping the bed of Lake Rotorua to prevent nutrient releases, some wetland construction, weed harvesting and land management change.

You will see that the construction of the diversion wall is almost complete. It will take another six weeks to two

months for contractors to finish off and put the whaler on top of the wall. There is a significant amount of environmental monitoring around the performance of the wall and this will be analysed over the next five years to test the performance of the wall against our predictions.

There continues to be positive comments from the Rotoiti community regarding water quality of Okaro Bay and Lake Rotoiti over the last year. We look forward to continuation of this trend as the wall starts to take effect and further sewage reticulation is undertaken as a result of the government grant.

HarbourMasters Report

This year has been a little quieter than last on the lakes. The excellent weather on the coast has taken more holidaymakers there.

We have continued with educating lakes users however. This year one infringement notice was given for people skiing in the 5 knot area within 200m of the shore.

The previous Harbour Master, Andrew Lang, has left Environment Bay of Plenty to pursue other opportunities. As a result we are reviewing requirements of the Maritime operations group in Rotorua. When the review is complete we will let you know the future structure.



Councillors' Reports

Karen Hunt

It's May already and things are getting increasingly busy at Council. We are in the midst of an Annual Plan Review due to be finalized end of June, submissions for this closed Friday 9th May. The District Plan Review is also well under way and there is still time to make submissions to this plan. As always we are looking at rates rises for this financial year 08/09 and the potential change to capital value rating for the year 09/10. As they say 'change is the only constant'.

BLUE LAKE LOGGING

Other areas of significant interest are the discussions around the planned selective logging around the Blue Lake. While Timberlands have resource consent to log this area there is considerable concern that it will in fact have a much greater impact on this area than previously understood. The Blue Lake area is used 26 weekends a year for a variety of sporting events in, on and around the lake. The iconic 'look and feel' of this lake is at risk of being damaged well beyond the value of the trees removed. Cr Dave Donaldson has been spearheading this campaign and I am pleased to say both the Minister of Conservation and the Minister of Tourism are fully briefed on this issue and that we are waiting to hear the results of these discussions.

WORM FARMING

I have been fortunate recently to attend two presentations on worm farming by Dr Michael Quintern, a Senior Scientist at Scion. Michael's passion is worm farming and the reduction of organic waste. Firstly by waste he means not only food scraps but paper towels, cardboard, biosolids, effluent; anything, in fact, that has been living, including **and quite importantly Lake Weed and lake sediment.**

While most of us begin thinking about our own household food scraps, Michael's vision extends to using **all of the council, schools, hospitals and tourism industries waste.** While no expert myself I have learnt there are many differences between worm farming and composting, and I will highlight just two. The difference between a worm farm and standard composting is there are different worms at work and the waste is reduced approx 80% in a worm farm as opposed to about a 1/3rd by conventional composting. And the worm dirt is a highly sought after soil conditioner fetching fairly high prices per kilo.

One of the most exciting uses is that the worms love lake weed. Trials are ongoing using lake weed and primary solids from pulp and paper waste i.e. clean fired wood chips. While there is no large scale operation at present it is of value to all lake edge dwellers that there is something that they can do with the lake weed that periodically gets washed up or is actively harvested. So where did I first hear about this worm revolution? At Green Drinks.

GREEN DRINKS

This is a relatively new to Rotorua social network of environmentally interested/aware people from all walks of life, who meet monthly on the last Tuesday of the month at the Blue Baths from 5ish to 7pm. There is a format of mingling over a drink, a guest speaker and an opportunity

to speak on something for 4 minutes if so inclined. Entry is by gold coin donation. Topics covered so far, the new long life light bulbs, vehicle emission testing, worm farming and Zero Waste strategies. Contact Greg Menendez greg@brandecology.com

Thanks for the opportunity to chat I look forward to seeing you at the Lakes Water Quality Symposium in August. Hope to see some of you at the next 'Green drinks @ the Blue Baths'.

Charles Sturt

The following issues are either on the Council Table and out for Public Discussion or are about to be considered.

They include:

- Capital versus Land based Rating;
- 2008/09 Draft Annual Plan;
- Review of Representation;
- District Plan Review;
- Eastern and Western Development reviews;
- Water needs for Rotoiti/Okawa Bay/Mourea.

My view and that of many I have spoken to is that Rotorua is now a District. The old Rural vs Urban feuds of the past have waned and we should get on and let all voters have a say in all the representatives for the whole of the District. I have been a staunch supporter of the Ward system as this allows smaller communities like Mamaku, Mourea, Okareka, Ngakuru to have a direct say in council matters and have their reps directly represent them. These communities could relate to three people who would visit them on a regular basis. This has happened in the North Ward and usually one of the three members attends meeting in the ward when invited.

However the landscape has changed and with the advent of community boards (their effectiveness is still questionable) who advocate for the area they represent the need for a member from every community is gone. The district wide system does have some negatives, the main one being that the council can become dominated by just one sector of the community (for example business, farming, retail or tourism). At the moment the council has a good balance of race, gender, background and expertise. Submissions are going to be called for toward the end of the year.

The greatest challenge is the District Plan Review, which will take months of work and years to implement. This will set the scene for what can and cannot happen in parts of our fragile environment. History tells us that we need to learn from our mistakes and that the Lakes, Rivers and land are under pressure. However with certain development comes the demand for more roads, subdivision and places to do business. It's all about balance and the Lakes are the area of most concern. Most people I have spoken to want environmentally sustainable development only. With people come costs. Costs for sewerage, roads, refuse, stormwater, drinking water, library services and a myriad of others. It's people who are the cost creators and not subdivision or development.

The airport is a classic example of the demands that development will place on the infrastructure needed for it to operate effectively. However that should not be a barrier to creating a huge exciting development like the airport for the employment opportunities and growth in local residents will have a huge positive effect. However the other effects need to be managed - ie biosecurity. Hope the Winter is kind to you all and please think of your fellow residents who can't get potable water when you fill in the questionnaires I believe are coming to your households soon. It's all right for me chum can be your attitude, but think of your neighbour who hasn't got his/her own bore and whether successive Local and Regional councils will allow you a long term water right.

Mayor's Report

I am reminded that 12 months ago, Rotorua District Council (RDC), Environment Bay of Plenty (EBoP), Te Arawa Lakes Trust (TALT) and the Ministry of the Environment (MfE) came together and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work together now and into the future in partnership to help restore lake water quality in all our 14 fresh water lakes.

Naturally I was delighted when our Prime Minister delivered her message at Otaramarae on the 26th March 2008, less than a year later, to say that the crown was committing \$72.1m over the next ten years to our lake restoration programmes for Lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti, Okareka and Rotoehu. So much work went on behind the scenes: by RDC staff, by EBoP staff, by Maori leaders and by you our community, to say that our lakes were precious to all New Zealanders. We all worked on: the project costings, the scientific analysis, the consultations, the trips to Wellington, the presentations, the Action plans, the hearings, the numerous meetings, the lobbying, the many conversations. We were able to convince our MPs that our iconic Lakes needed taxpayer support. Well done to the people of Rotorua.

RDC can now plan and implement its Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) with certainty. The numerous sewerage schemes that we have planned, designed, budgeted for can now proceed with confidence to the next stage of community consultation. Of the \$72m, \$32m is for sewerage schemes in and around those 4 lakes mentioned previously, including the Blue Lake.

Programmes and Works for Lakes Tarawera and Rotoma are still in the design phase. We will be having more discussions with the Crown as part of our MOU for these lakes. Those conversations have not stopped.

Thank you for all your support to help secure this funding for our lakes.

Kevin Winters

From your MP

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Lake Rotoiti Newsletter. I would like to congratulate you all on your involvement as a community in the development and ongoing implementation of the Lake Rotoiti Action Plan. Community support is essential for any initiative to work and this is a good example of what can be achieved by working together.

I am privileged, as the Minister of Conservation, to be exposed to an amazing number of community-based conservation initiatives around the country. Bay of Plenty is no exception and rich with great examples including the Otanewainuku kiwi project; Mt Ngongotaha Bush Restoration Trust; Wingspan; Kaharoa Kokako project; Manawahe kokako corridor; and the Rotoiti Scenic Reserve Board. All of these projects/groups are providing very real benefits to conservation.

A new exciting opportunity exists for all of us to work together and create an ecological corridor. The Department of Conservation, along with Environment Bay of Plenty, has been floating the concept of an ecological corridor (extending from the Kaimai-Mamaku ranges through to Matata). The plan is to connect the mountains to the sea with an expanse of bush for our native species to roam. Lake Rotoiti is part of this concept. This initiative is exciting and absolutely achievable if everyone works together. It is a unique opportunity to enhance our own local environment.

The success of the Kokako breeding in Bay of Plenty is a shining example of how the efforts of the Kaharoa Kokako Trust and the Manawahe Kokako Trust, a collective of passionate people, can make a significant difference for one of our threatened native species.

It is important to realise that conservation is much bigger than the Department of Conservation and that we must all work together to make a difference for the benefit of conservation.

Finally I wish to thank you and acknowledge the contributions of individuals and groups within the Rotoiti community to the environment through trapping programmes, restoration work and other worthwhile conservation work. The benefits for the community go beyond the environment, with important bonds between neighbours and communities being formed.

Thank you again – keep up the good work.

- Steve Chadwick

Council Shelves Transfer Station

As Chairman of Works I have had a long involvement with the attempts to establish a Transfer Station for eastern Lake Rotoiti and Lake Rotoma residents. As many of you will recall there was a skip site on the main highway and it became an eyesore. So 10 years ago we began searching for a site for a transfer and recycling centre. In total we have explored seven sights, three of which were in my opinion very suitable for the purpose required. We have spent \$150,000 exploring these sites and were prepared to expend a further \$150,000 establishing the Curtis Road site with high environmental controls. However, enough is enough. Not one councillor could justify going ahead with the Resource Consent for Curtis Road in the face of 30 objections. So the decision has been made to shelve plans for a transfer station in that area.

It seems that the old NIMBY syndrome is alive and well. We have transfer and recycling stations at Mamaku, Reporoa, Tarawera, Okere Falls and they are functioning very well indeed. They are clean, tidy operations and indeed the last transfer station we completed, Lake Tarawera, has blended so beautifully into the surrounding native vegetation that if you did not know it was there you would never see it on driving past. Indeed, they are so popular with residents that there have been requests to see these transfer stations open for longer hours.

So folks that is it. There will be no transfer station in that area in the near future but of course the weekly bag collection will continue. No-one is more disappointed than I am to see this happen but as I have said we cannot justify the ongoing expenditure especially when faced with the eventuality of ending up in the Environment Court.

*Glenys Searancke
Chairman of Works*



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The Market is what it is

Remember the Henny Penny story: she was hit on the head by a falling acorn, believed a piece of the sky had fallen and convinced the barnyard animals the sky was falling for everyone. Not because she had the evidence. But because she repeated the doom and gloom until she had convinced them they were all heading for disaster.

I think Henny Penny is alive and well in some of the media stories I read about Real Estate.

The Market is what it is. Whatever you may feel caused it one thing is sure, things are slower, the numbers of monthly sales are approximately half of what they averaged a year ago, and Listings are up an average of 48% across the country so buyers have a greater choice. Mortgage lenders have tightened the rules.

Today the greatest challenge for Vendors and agents is "getting the value/price right". Listing your property at a "hope to get figure" with the expectation that you can always "come down" will mean you are in danger of having the market pass you by. With more choice, the buyers will see it as overpriced and go and look at something else. A year ago, with the lesser number available, your agent had the opportunity to encourage them back and reconsider.

If you are selling, seriously consider why first. If proceeding then, pick your agent wisely – then listen to him/her, and work together.

What for the future?

Don't panic, we have already seen interest rates starting to fall - eg. the BNZ 5 year rate, the Kiwi bank rates - and predictions are for further falls before the end of the year. Recently built homes on the market cannot be replaced for the same money, due to rising building and labour costs. Building consents are down as builders cut back. All of these things add pressure to the existing housing market as stock levels reduce. When will the market turn? We can only know that for certain once the time has passed!

- Steve Howard

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Fish and Game Report

Winter Surveys

Winter Creel surveys have started again on Lakes Rotoiti, Okataina and Tarawera. Surveys are conducted by Fish & Game rangers and will run from the start of May until the end of July 2008. This provides us with important information regarding the health of the fishery and assists in making management decisions such as liberation strategies. These surveys are relatively painless, and involve a few questions as we weigh and measure your catch. Please ensure you carry your fishing licence on you at all times when fishing and we thank you for your co-operation.

Early indications of Lake Rotoiti's shoreline fishing this winter are promising with some good condition fish landed thus far.

The Wall



The Ohau Channel wall is nearly completed. Angler Creel surveys are being conducted before, during and after construction. This will determine any changes in the

fishery due to the project. Both trout and smelt are being monitored as part of the consent process.

Trout Liberations

As this issue goes to press, The Autumn liberations to Rotoiti will have been completed. A total of 14,000 LPAD (left pelvic and adipose fin) clipped and 500 tagged (8R) 1 year olds will be released at the following points – Ruato Bay, Quarry, Dump, Transformer and Hinehopu.

Didymo and Aquatic pests

*This may be old news for some, but the message needs to be said frequently.

The introduction of pest fish/weeds and algae remains a key threat to our waterways. As seen recently, the threat of *Didymo* in the Central North Island created widespread panic throughout many surrounding regions. Please remain vigilant against these invaders. Remove weed from boat trailers and props, wash down boats, and don't transport live fish or eggs between water bodies. Aquatic weed can also carry pest fish eggs (Koi and catfish eggs are often laid on aquatic weed) and we don't want them here.

Stopping *Didymo* dead in its tracks is as simple as cleaning all fishing equipment with a 5% solution of dishwashing detergent (50ml detergent/litre water) before and after entering waterways. Fishing gear includes rods, reels, flies/lures, indicators, footwear/waders and any gear that has come into contact with water. Felt soled waders can't be properly cleaned and require freezing overnight, and we ask people to refrain from using felt soled footwear. A ban on felt soled waders and wading boots is coming.

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

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Te Ruato

ANgati Rongomai settlement east of Hauparu at the present junction of SH 30 and the Lake Okataina access road. Though undoubtedly always a preferred residential area for Ngati Rongomai, a fortified site named Whakairingatoto, west of the bay and on the high land overlooking the lake, was generally occupied and probably a refuge in times of danger. Once Christianity had been introduced, Te Ruato became the permanent residential area.

Traditions concerning Te Ruato seem to begin during the time of Tutanekai who, while staying there, lost two valuable mako ear ornaments named Taipupuhi and Tuperenui. Soon afterwards they were discovered by Morewhati, a son of Pikiao 1, who handed them back to Tutanekai, receiving Tuperenui as a reward. Morewhati later exchanged this with a Taupo man for a feather cloak. Tutanekai considered this an insult, raised a war party and ultimately killed Morewhati and his brother Tamakari, setting in train a series of violent affairs.

Sometime later there were problems in the bush behind Te Ruato when Te Whakaruru of Ngati Te Takinga went there to take a tree for a canoe. The tree he chose was one named Rakeiao, claimed by Ngati Tarawhai as their own. A party from Okataina led by Tiko and Taiorurua went immediately to remonstrate with Te Whakaruru. He however ignored them and continued felling the tree.

Tiko and Taiorurua went on to Te Ruato and persuaded the people there to support an action against Te Whakaruru. As a result they were armed and waiting as Te Whakaruru returned after the tree had fallen. He was challenged as he arrived at Te Ruato and told he must give the tree over to Ngati Tarawhai. This he refused to do and a scuffle broke out during which he was speared by Tuahia and killed. His body was said to have fallen into the stream, which gave rise to its name, Te Whakaruru.

During the mid-1830s a considerable number of Ngati Tarawhai moved from Okataina to Te Ruato and established a settlement there and another one further east at Te Kotukutuku, near Punawhakareia. As expert carvers and canoe builders they found these settlements much more convenient than Okataina.

There was tremendous excitement at Te Ruato during 1853 when it served as the departure point for a war party of Ngati Pikiao. They were travelling to Te Ariki at Tarawera to assist Ngati Rangitihi fight against Ngati Tuhourangi. Hostilities had arisen there due to an attempt to commercialise the famous Pink and White Terraces at Rotomahana.

Abraham Warrick was an early trader in the Bay of Plenty. He married Ngakarauna, a daughter of the Ngati Rangitihi chief Paerau. With an eye to business the family built a house near the White Terrace at Rotomahana. Apart from his normal trading for flax with the locals, Warrick and his father-in-law apparently set a charge for viewing the terraces and offered a professional guiding service. The Ngati Taoi hapu of Tuhourangi, led by their chief Te Rangiheuea, went to Rotomahana, pulled Warrick's house down and ejected the family from the area.

Paerau then went to Motutawa Island at Rotokakahi and challenged Te Rangiheuea and his people to battle. A visiting Waikato chief, Matenga Te Whiwhi, attempted to make peace but was unsuccessful in preventing Ngati Rangitihi and Tuhourangi meeting to fight at Te Ariki. Ngati Rangitihi were defeated and their chief Te Hokuwhakarau was killed.

Ngati Rangitihi then embarked on another campaign, this time drawing allies from Ngati Whakaue at Rotorua and Ngati Tarawhai from Okataina. This party also attacked

Tuhourangi at Te Ariki but were once again defeated with the loss of their chiefs Paerau, Te Timu and Te Wharerau.

Still determined to fight, Ngati Rangitihi raised yet another war party, this time securing allies not only from Ngati Whakaue and Ngati Tarawhai but also from many of Ngati Pikiao and a group of Tuhoe. For this engagement Ngati Pikiao dragged a number of canoes from Te Ruato to Okataina, and from there to Tarawera. Among the named canoes Parehaki was later returned to Te Rotoiti and came into the possession of Tieri Te Tikao. In later years it was abandoned and lay almost concealed in the swamp at Korokitewao until the mid twentieth century.

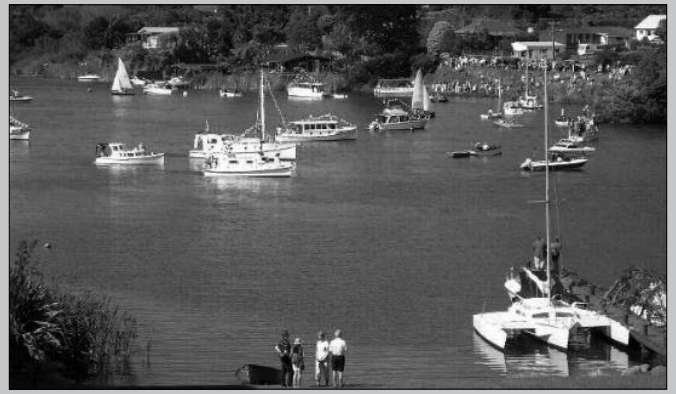
The combined forces launched their attack at Te Ariki but it too turned into a disaster for the attackers. Among those killed were the chiefs Te Tikao, Kairau, Te Kirikau, Te Paki, Te Kaipuke and his brother Himiona. None of Tuhourangi died. The return of the defeated group to Te Rotoiti was a sad one and their first point of arrival was again Te Ruato. The residents and others nearby gathered to tangi for the dead. The bodies of the slain were then taken to Tapuaeharuru where most of Te Arawa assembled for the major tangihanga. Later the bodies were interred on Pateko Island to be later exhumed for removal to other traditional urupa.

More battles followed but a peace treaty was eventually concluded. Mission records of the time suggest that the battles at Te Ariki began during April 1853 and continued until peace was made during April/May 1854.

A number of saw pits were established at Te Ruato soon after the mid-nineteenth century. Pita Te Wharetoroa owned one and provided wood for the construction of several houses and also for the first government school at Te Akau. Himiona Te Pikikotuku owned another and timber cut by him was used by Te Tuapu of Ngati Rangiwewehi to build a boat named Makurata. Ratema Ngamuka operated a pit where he cut weatherboards for a house and store he built at Otaramarae. Richard Curtis and his wife Puhiawe Ngaki worked their own pit and cut the timber for a weatherboard house for themselves, which they built at Tapuaekura. They also cut timber for a boat built at Tapuaekura, which was named Huhuma.

Te Ruato was the scene of a large meeting of all Ngati Pikiao during 1882. Its purpose was to decide whether to allow the survey of a road around the lake's southern shore, which would eventually connect Rotorua with Te Teko. Approval was given, but it was 1895 before survey work actually began. Construction followed, and by June 1896 it was possible to drive a buggy from Rotorua to Tapuaeharuru.

This shortened text reproduced with kind permission of D.M.Stafford from his book 'Landmarks of Te Arawa Volume 2: Rotoiti, Rotoheu, Rotoma'



Classic and Wooden Boats

Since the last report the *Classic and Wooden Boats Inc.* have enjoyed a full and well supported calendar of events.

Waitangi weekend turned on perfect summer weather for our annual *Classic and Wooden Boat Regatta*. On Friday night the opening function was attended by 120 keen members, enjoying a "get together" and sausage sizzle on the Commodore's lawn. On Saturday a flotilla of 65 well dressed boats and colourful crews assembled in the Okere Arm. After the opening ceremony and the firing of the cannon the various craft, led by 2 wakas, paraded to Okawa Bay and Otaramarae Bay, a route that allowed members of the public to enjoy the colourful spectacle of the many and varied boats from vantage points along the shore. All the boats then met in Trailer/Sailor Bay for the annual picnic and ever popular egg throwing contest and tug of war competition between the crews. Inclement weather on Sunday forced a change of venue to the Okere Arm for the yacht races and the very hotly contested Seagull Outboard races.

Easter Friday attracted 12 entries for the "Poker by Boat" and picnic lunch. There is absolutely no skill but a lot of luck needed for this event, open for all members, as is the Annual Fishing contest at Labour Weekend.

Plans are well underway for the first two composting toilets to be put in place at Cherry Bay and Whangamoa Point. There are a further two to be placed at yet to be confirmed sites.

A reminder that the A.G.M. of the *Classic and Wooden Boat Inc.* will be held on the **14th June at 10.am. at the Okere Fire Station.**

Commodore Buzz Rathbone



Rotorua Lakes Community Board

With the Community Board having now been in existence for approximately six months, it is perhaps relevant to review progress to date.

The Board consists of elected members Phillip Karauna (Rotoehu/Rotoma), Neil Callaghan (Tarawera), Geoff Palmer (Okareka), and Brentleigh Bond (Rotoiti). They have been joined by RDC Councillors Karen Hunt (North Ward) and Dave Donaldson (East Ward).

The Statutory Roll of the Community Board is to:

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

One of the first tasks undertaken by the Board was a submission on expenditure within the Community for the 2008/09 year. With very little time available since the Board was established, and following meetings with Community Groups and RDC staff, a submission was presented to Council's Finance Committee at its meeting in February. It is encouraging that a number of the Board's proposals, including the Boyes Beach (Okareka) upgrade and improvements to the Blue/Green Lakes lookout, were accepted by Council for inclusion in the 2008/09 Draft Annual Plan. Council has also agreed to carry out surveys for water supply at Mourea and Lake Rotoma. It is the Board's intention to develop and expand on this process for future years.

A main driver which led to the establishment of the Community Board was the desire to improve communication between the community and Council. Accordingly, the Board has resolved to hold every second meeting in the Community with alternate meetings to be held at Council. The Board has also instigated a 'Community Forum' to be held before all its meetings which will give residents the opportunity to come along and discuss any issues or concerns they may have. It is intended that this Forum will be largely informal while at the same time allowing resident's concerns to be recorded in the minutes for future attention.

The first meeting for the 2008 year was held at Lake Rotoma on the 14th February and was well attended, with nine people taking the opportunity to raise their issues at the Forum. The Board looks forward to residents taking the opportunity to come along to future Community Forums and raise their issues and concerns.

The remaining Ordinary Meetings of the Rotorua Lakes Community Board for the 2008 year will be held as follows:-

Thursday 19th June: Community Forum 1.30 pm; Meeting 2.00 pm; RDC, 1061 Haupapa Street, Rotorua.

Thursday 10th July: Community Forum 7.00 pm; Meeting 7.30 pm; Duxton Hotel, SH 33, Okawa Bay, Lake Rotoiti.

Thursday 14th August: Community Forum 1.30 pm; Meeting 2.00 pm; RDC, 1061 Haupapa Street, Rotorua.

Thursday 25th September: Community Forum 7.00 pm; Meeting 7.30 pm; Okareka Community Hall, Okareka Loop Road, Lake Okareka.

Thursday 13th November: Community Forum 1.30 pm; Meeting 2.00 pm; RDC, 1061 Haupapa Street, Rotorua.

N.B. These dates and venues are subject to change

The Board is very keen to receive your comments on an on-going basis, and invites you to make your submission at any Board meeting.

It will be helpful if you could indicate your intention to address the Board a few days ahead of time, and provide written details of the issue or suggestion you would like the Community Board to consider, or the specific action you would like to be taken.

Please forward your submission to:

The Chairman
Rotorua Lakes Community Board
C/- Rotorua District Council
Private Bag 3029
Rotorua Mail Centre
ROTORUA 3046

or email the Chairman at grahamb@clear.net.nz

or phone (07) 362 4700

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Community Board Presentation to RDC Draft Annual Plan 2008/09

Your Worship, Councillors, and RDC officers, good morning and thank you for the opportunity to speak to the Rotorua Lakes Community Board's submission to the 2008/09 Draft Annual Plan.

The Draft Plan includes a number of items that affect the Community. These include:

the Rotoiti Water Headwork's Improvement
the Spencer Road Walkway
minor safety work on the Okareka Loop Road
Tapuaeharuru Marae entrance

We support the inclusion of these in the Plan.

We, no doubt like yourselves, are delighted at the recent announcement from Government of the \$72M assistance package, some of which will be used to subsidise construction of the long awaited lakeside residential wastewater schemes. Our thanks to all those of you who were involved in the negotiations with the Ministry that has led to this very successful outcome.

A recent headline in the Daily Post suggested that the water quality in our lakes was improving. However, EBOP's recently released 'Lakes Water Quality 2007 Report' does not agree. With the exception of Lake Okaro where significant restoration work has been undertaken, the long term trend based on over 13 years of data indicates a range from 'no change' to 'definite degradation' of water quality depending on the particular lake. The health of our lakes is central to the Community and we commend Council's efforts to address the wastewater issue with urgency. Remediation efforts can have spectacular short term benefits as is becoming apparent since reticulation in Okawa Bay. Whereas this embayment was one of the worst areas in our lakes it has after reticulation, become one of the best with no algal blooms for the last two summers.

We understand that Lakes Tarawera and Rotoma are included in Council's programme for wastewater schemes but have not been included in the Government funding announcement. We commend your ongoing efforts to seek additional funding for these lakes.

The Board has asked Council for funding for an upgrade to Lake Okareka's Boyes Beach Reserve and to the Blue Lake/Green Lake carpark. We thank you for providing funding for these projects and support their inclusion in the Plan.

Also requested, but not included in the Draft Plan, were water reticulation surveys for Mourea/Okawa Bay and for Lake Rotoma. Letters have been sent to residents in these areas and, we understand, to the additional areas of Whangamarino, Okere Falls and Otaramarae. We expect the results of these surveys to be known in the near future.

Our submission also includes a request for a two weekly refuse removal service around the lakes. We are unclear as to how this item was included and we ask that you strike this out.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to a situation of significant consequence that I am sure you are already well aware of. This relates to the current economic climate and the decreasing ability of residents to fund the necessities of life. I won't labour the recently announced 28% rise in food prices, the 29,000 job losses in the first quarter this year described by Westpac's Brendan O'Donovan as an 'absolute shocker', the recent and ongoing increases in the price of petrol, and the general rise in the level of bad debts, to name but a few. Perhaps the most telling of the price increases is a recent newspaper article describing the shock faced by our members of Parliament as the price of food at Bellamys Beehive Café rockets!

We have some concern with the headline in the Draft Plan that indicates a rate increase of 4.5%. When the general rate and the targeted rates are added together we see an increase from the current year to the 2008/09 year of \$4,447,000 or 7.34%, a figure that we believe could have been more transparent in the Draft. In view of the financial difficulties currently being faced by New Zealanders and from which I am sure Rotorua is not immune, we would ask that you consider carefully items of particularly capital expenditure before finally including them in the Plan.

Without suggesting specific areas for cuts, we would like to see the overall increase of the general and targeted rate reduced from 7.34% to the headline 4.5%.

These are unusual times that may require unusual actions.

Thank you

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Accident / Medical Centre (0800-2200)	348-1000
Urgent Pharmacy (0830 - 2130, 24/7)	348-4385
Rotorua Hospital	348-1199
St John Ambulance	348-6286
Poisons Information Centre	03-474-7000
Rotorua Police Station	348-0099
TrustPower Emergency	0800-878-787
Energy Online Faults	0800-083-285
Environment Pollution Hotline	0800-738-393
S.P.C.A	349-2955
Dog Control (RDC)	348-4199
Harbour Master	0800-368-267
- After Hours	07-921-3375
Coastguard	348-9490
Marine Radio - Dave Hutchings	348-7429
Dept. of Conservation	346-1155
M.A.F.	07-578-2069
Fish and Game Eastern	357-5501
Fish and Game Licences	0800-542-362
Poaching	0800-762-244
Environment Bay of Plenty	0800-368-267
Rotorua District Council	348-4199
Lake Maintenance	362-4814
Pumps -Hi Flo Pumps	348-7516
- A/Hrs	025-274-6881
Septic Tanks - Allens United	332-3694
- Rotorua Waste Disposal	357-4534
Emerys Store	362-7866
Happy Angler Store	362-4709
Okere Falls Store	362-4944
Rotoma Trading Post	362-0722

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Weekly Household Refuse Collection

Only RDC Official Bags will be collected
Place at kerbside by 8am on collection day
Tie bags securely

No changes to collection days on Public Holidays.

Refuse & Recycling Okere Transfer Station

Located at Okere Rd (just south of SH33)

Hours: 1.00pm - 4.00pm Wednesday

10.00am - 4.30pm Sundays

1.00pm - 4.30pm Last afternoon of Public Holiday

Landfill Fees apply. Recycling Free of Charge

Domestic Waste only

No Trucks

No Hazardous Waste

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Sunday and Public Holidays 9.30am - 4.30pm

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Landfill Fees Apply

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Thurs 9 - 1pm

Fri - Closed

2008 LAKE ROTOITI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Committee:	Ann & John Green	Okere Falls	ph (07) 362-4204	jandagreen5@xtra.co.nz
	Gerald Plested		ph (021) 945 598	gplested@xtra.co.nz
	Phill Thomass	Hinehopu	ph (07) 362-7777	lrca@thomass.net
	Geoff Turner	Waiiti	ph (029) 915 2435	gjt@fmilaw.co.nz
	David Wilson		ph (07) 362 4091	da.wilson@xtra.co.nz
Treasurer	Brentleigh Bond	Mourea ph	ph (07) 362-4700	grahamb@clear.net.nz

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