

# LAKE ROTOITI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.

## NEWSLETTER WINTER 2012

### CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

**Welcome to the Winter edition of our Newsletter.**

**After thinking that the pace might slacken this year, instead we have been busier than ever. Lake levels, sewerage plants, court cases and the never ending interactions with Councils have taken up far more time than we anticipated.**

#### OKERE GATES

The Resource Consent Renewals for the Okere Gates and the Ohau Channel Weir were finally signed by the Environment Court on 26th March 2012. The new operating regime has now come into effect and the first annual "flush" has recently taken place. We would be very interested in any feedback that residents would like to give on the affects to them of this flush. All contact details are at the end of this report.

Our lead article sets out very clearly how the new operating regime is to work and the lake levels that can be expected throughout the year.

#### ROTOMA WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT CONSENT APPEAL

In early July the Environment Court was to hear two Appeals against the granting of a Consent for the Rotoma WWTP. After the Rotoma Rotoehu Ratepayers Association was able to successfully negotiate extra conditions for the Consent with Rotorua District Council they withdrew their appeal. Instead they sat as an Interested Party in the Hearing for the remaining two appeals.

LRCA and Tamatea St Ratepayers Association also participated in the Appeals as Interested Parties.

With agreement from all parties the Environment Court adjourned the Appeal until the end of September. There is more work needed to be done on the proposed WWTP which will result in either submission of an amendment to the Consent, or a new Consent

being sought. The adjournment will hopefully allow all parties to work together to find a solution acceptable and beneficial to everyone.

The Environment Court offered its considerable experience in mediation and work-shopping to help the parties resolve the issues raised in the hearings, and LRCA fully support seeing this process put in place.

#### CHANGES TO OUR RATES

I would urge you to read the article regarding Rate changes. Representatives from each of the major lakes groups in the District are to meet with the Community Board to discuss the current situation and to decide on a cohesive way forward. Again we would welcome comment from all interested parties. The new rates are available on the Rotorua District Council website.

We will be posting updates on this subject on the website

#### WEED SPRAYING

Details of the 2012/13 LINZ Proposed Annual Biosecurity Control Works Programme for Crown Land administered by Land information New Zealand (LINZ) (Weed-spraying to us!) are being made available on our website. I would urge you to look at these and to contact us if you have any comment

#### HILARY PRIOR (CHAIRPERSON)

*Please contact us in regard to any of these matters at [lrca@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lrca@xtra.co.nz) or leave comments on our website [www.rototi.co.nz](http://www.rototi.co.nz), or write to us at LRCA c/o PDC Mourea, RD4, Rotorua.*

# LAKE ROTOITI LEVEL OKERE GATES CONSENT FINALISED

After nearly three years of protracted negotiations – including an extended Environment Court mediation process – the Okere Gates Consent was finally signed-off on 26 March 2012. Key elements of the intended operating regime are summarized in the following chart.

Particular features include :

1. 279.100 as a minimum level for the 7 months from 01 October – 30 April. This is the 'critical' minimum level advocated by LRCA to minimize jetty access and navigation issues. This minimum will therefore be observed during the main summer and autumn recreational boating months.
2. A gradual drawdown to a 279.000 minimum for July and August. This is the so-called 'flush' during which it is hoped to shift sediment in the Ohau Channel and delta, and to generally observe the impact of this level on lake dynamics.
3. All Okere Gate management will require that the 6 hourly average outflow of water through the gates must be equal to, or greater than the 6 hourly average inflow of water from the Ohau Channel. This is to minimize 'reflux' of water from Lake Rotorua around the diversion wall and thence into the main body of Lake Rotoiti.

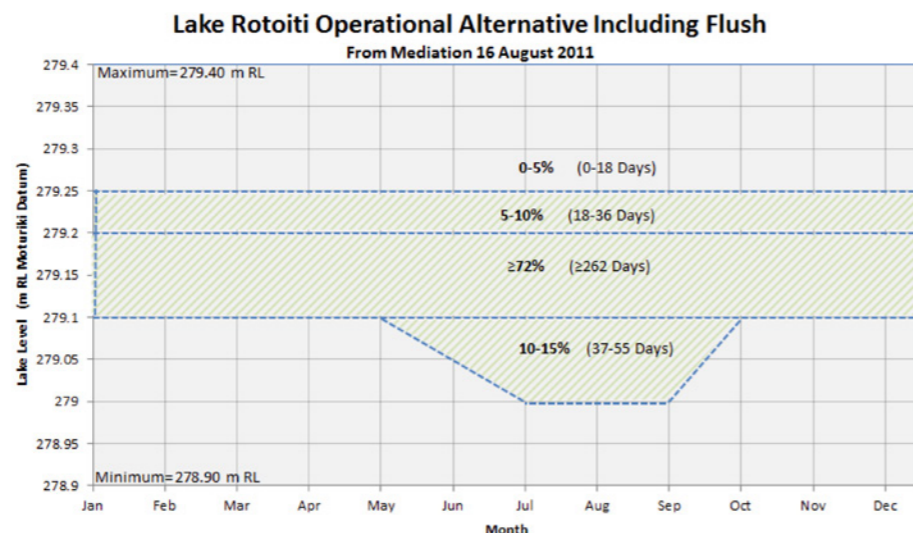
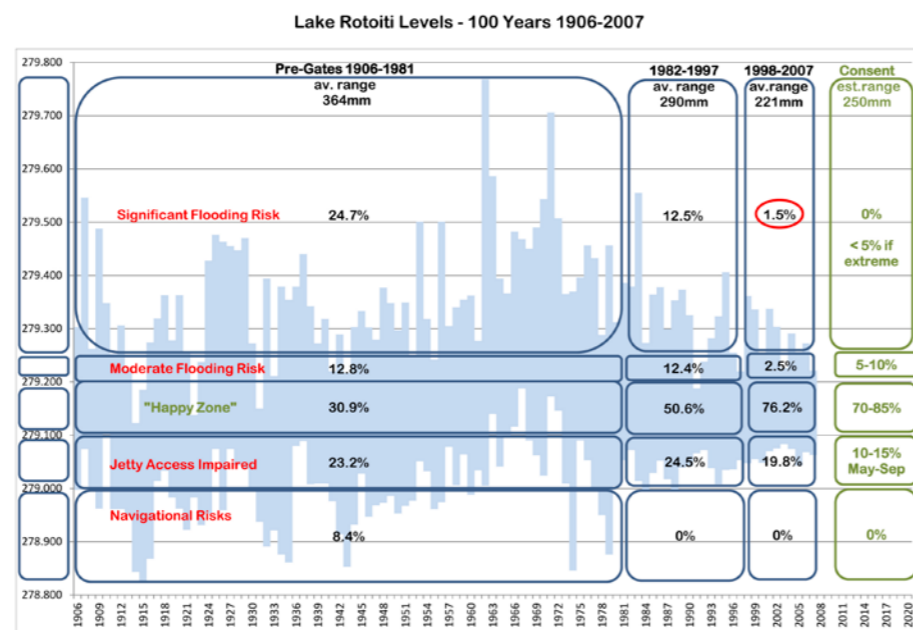


Figure: Schematic of Lake Rotoiti possible alternative operating envelopes



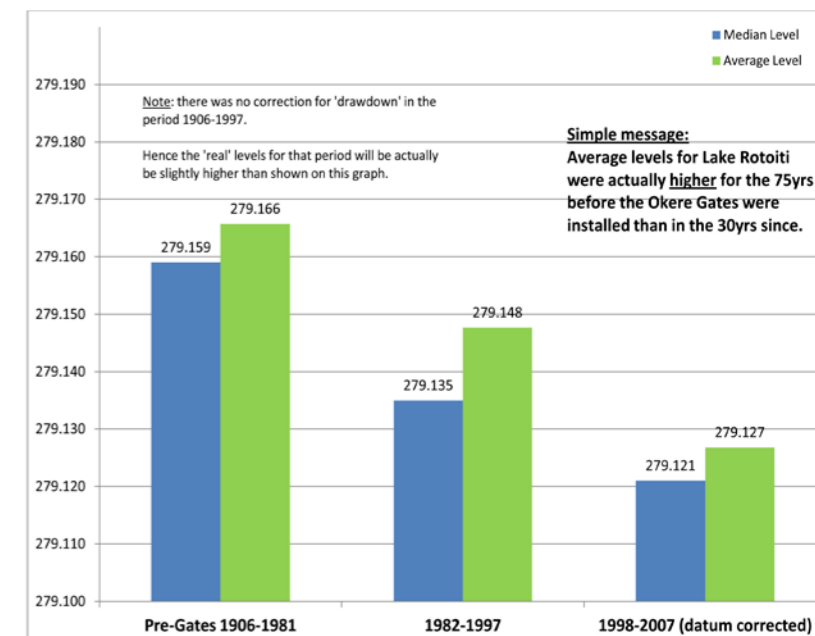
Three liaison groups have been established to provide feedback to the BOP Regional Council on the operational regime as implemented throughout the 35 year consent period. Two of these groups are iwi-based Kaitiaki Groups – split basically by particular interest either above or below the gates – and a more general community liaison group including LRCA and other special interest community groups. The Kaitiaki Groups are each required to provide a Cultural Management Plan within the first 3 years of the consent and every 5 years thereafter, which, if accompanied by a written request for review of consent conditions, may oblige the Regional Council to conduct such review. The Kaitiaki Groups will be funded by the BOP Regional Council to provide this cultural management feedback.

The next graphic shows how levels for the new consented regime compare with historical lake levels.

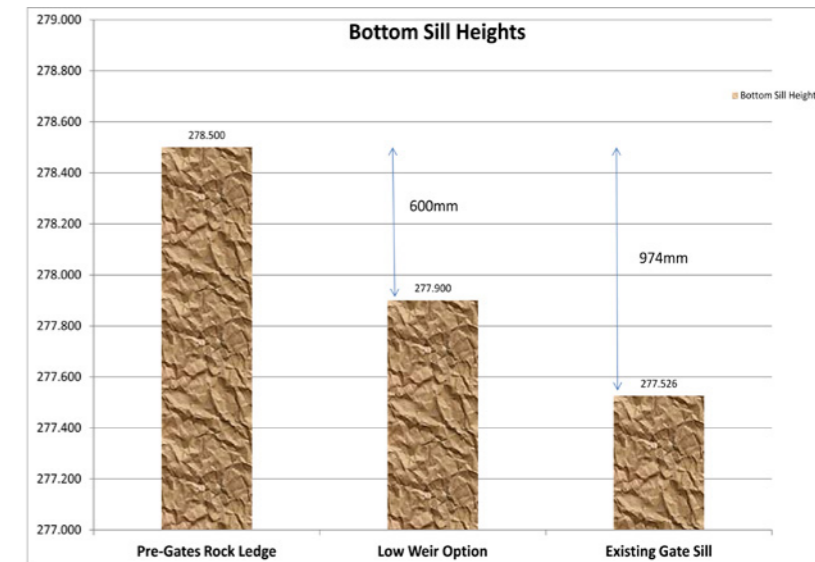
Two issues persistently raised by the Ngati Pikiao Environmental Society and likely to be raised again in future include :

- Lake Rotoiti levels since the installation of the Okere Gates have been higher than historical levels. This is not correct as indicated in the following graphic.
- Full opening of the Okere Gates for an extended 'trial period' – perhaps of many years – will allow the objective assessment of how lake levels would naturally vary had the gates not been installed. Not only is that information already available from historical records, but furthermore the bottom sill level of the existing gates is almost 1 metre lower than the pre-existing natural rock ledge; hence, with the gates at their fully-open setting lake levels would likely drop considerably below 'natural' levels creating unacceptably low lake levels and considerable navigation risk.

Lake Rotoiti : Median and Average Levels over 100 Years 1906-2007



Bottom Sill Heights



## Lakes WATER QUALITY Society

Progress on the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes action plans continues to build pace. New plans are being completed for Lakes Tarawera, Rotomahana and Okataina. People have been swimming in Lake Rotoehu for the first time in nearly 40 years. Rotoiti's clarity is now over 8 metres and excellent progress has been made on

reticulated sewerage around our major lakes.

We now have a draft Regional Policy Statement which has targeted 435 tonnes of Nitrogen as being the sustainable load to Lake Rotorua. This means the community will need to come up with ideas and plans of action to remove over 300 tonnes per annum from the catchment through changing land use and management. LWQS has partnered with Lake Rotorua Primary Producers' Collective, comprising dairy and drystock farmers and land owners, to work together co-operatively to achieve a clean

and healthy Lake Rotorua through reduced nutrient emissions. A co-ordinator has been appointed and we have asked Bay of Plenty Regional Council to conduct a workshop for all parties to identify solutions for the best way forward. Our challenge is far greater than that of Lake Taupo and hence the need to have more innovative ideas and plans to achieve our goals.

The Rotorua District Council has recently created a new economic development council controlled organisation to help drive the district's growth strategy for the future. It is refreshing

to see the positive changing attitudes within council taking many of the ideas out of our 2011 Symposium into the new Sustainable Economic Growth Strategy. The costs of restoration and management of our lakes are high and it is essential that Rotorua becomes a 'can do' place to live and grow to be able to maintain the standards of water quality that we expect.

**JOHN GREEN** | CHAIRMAN  
LAKESWATER QUALITY SOCIETY

## ROTORUA LAKES COMMUNITY BOARD PROPOSED 2012 MEETING DATES

Venues to be announced:  
• August 2 • September 13 • November 1 • December 13

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

# ROTORUA LAKES PROGRAMME UPDATE

1. Rotoehu De-stratification machinery (installed late May) will be used to test the aeration of the lake on a shallow lake
2. The Tikitere de-nitrification plant is getting a major change to the front end operation to remove sediment before treatment as this is preventing the flow of the water through the filter bed. The results of this will be used to design the full scale plant over the next 12 months
3. The quality of Lake Rotorua water continues to improve. Lake modelling work, being undertaken by University of Waikato and Professor Hamilton, is aimed at qualifying the reason for the improvement. This report will be completed in July 2012. It is likely to be related to the success of alum dosing in two streams locking up phosphorus, as well as the wet cool summer preventing the lake from stratifying this summer and reducing the release of nutrients from the lake sediments. The modelling and report will help identify if this is the case.
4. Bay of Plenty Regional Council is going through the last stages of applying for consent for the emergency alum dosing for Okawa Bay if conditions develop setting up for a harmful algal bloom. So far this season algal numbers have been low and there has been no requirement to dose in that location.



PIPE USED IN THE ROTOEHU DE-STRATIFICATION PROJECT

## ROTORUA HARBOURMASTER: UPDATE

- As most of you are aware we had the unfortunate accident of a vessel catching fire on Lake Rotoiti a few weeks ago.
  - Sadly one of the children on board received burns but his parents say that he is well on the road to recovery and was wanting to get out water skiing within a couple of days, great to have that true Kiwi spirit still showing in our youth.
  - We thank the Volunteer Fire Service for their response; they did a fine job in containing it and ensuring that no other people were injured or vessels damaged.
  - With winter fast approaching we have reduced our patrol duties and are doing them on a more random basis depending on weather conditions.
  - We have seen a pleasing improvement in boat behaviour lately, especially with skippers ensuring that they have the correct number and type of lifejackets on board.
  - Many thanks to those that advise us of buoys that have been damaged and lights not working. We do our best in replacing them as quickly as possible and having extra sets of eyes looking out is gratefully appreciated.
  - Wrap up warm when out on the water during winter and please check your navigation lights.
- "It's safe to be seen"**
- ROSS POWELL**  
MARITIME OFFICER - BAY OF PLENTY REGIONAL COUNCIL

# PROPERTY RATES ARE WE BEING FAIRLY TREATED?

Our rating systems are again in the spotlight with the latest proposals that were put forward in the Draft District and Regional Long Term Plans. Some of these proposals have significant implications for rural residential ratepayers in particular and pose serious questions surrounding their fairness and equity.

Most of our lakes ratepayers fall into the rural residential category and many will recall the extreme debacle of 1991 when Rotorua District Council proposed to increase the general rates paid by this sector from a differential of 25 percent of urban to 100 percent with little fore-warning. Under the initial generalship of our then Chairman, Lindsay Brighthouse (who was soon to be joined by leaders from the other Lakes Ratepayer Groups), a stern campaign of protest was mounted which eventually led to some 400 property owners taking up 'arms' to fight what was seen to be a thoroughly unjust proposition. The upshot was that, following the threat of a legal challenge, Council agreed to take a more rational view. After some meaningful consultation, it was agreed to settle on a differential of 51.5% which actually represented the difference in average land valuation between urban and rural residential ratepayers at that time. It was also our belief that a tacit undertaking was given to use this formula as a basis for setting future rates between the two sectors. However, this has never been adhered to by Council.

Since then, a number of reviews have seen the differential whittled back to where it stands today at 76 percent of the urban rate (which now means that we pay 58% more on average than our urban cousins). This despite the ever increasing gap between urban and rural property valuations (these average variances based on the latest valuations are 125 percent for land and 76 percent for capital values) and our assiduous opposition based on factual differences between the two groups.

In the latest round of proposals, Council **has now ratified** a change from a land to capital value-based system on the premise that it provides a more equitable apportionment of rates and is a fairer indicator of an 'ability to pay'. Moreover, it is intended to phase out all differentials over the next few years (both capital value and removal of differentials were a recommendation in the 'Shand' Report of several years ago).

In our submission to RDC, we again highlighted these important factors towards at least maintaining our present differential:-

- The huge disparity in urban and rural residential average property valuations.
- The significant limitations in accessing the major public facilities and amenities based in the city due to distances to travel, and the extra costs imposed through a lack of public transport (accepting that most of these facilities and amenities are not replicated in our communities).
- The considerable individual capital cost of lakeside sewerage schemes implemented for the benefit of the **whole** district but sparsely subsidised from general rates (whilst we acknowledge that sewerage and water maintenance charges have been equalised across the district – to our added benefit – it needs to be remembered that the huge residual capital cost to the district of upgrading the urban sewerage scheme in 1991 was essentially funded 100% from general rates which meant that those with significantly higher land values – most of us – ended up contributing far more than the average urban beneficiary).
- The regulated and self-imposed restriction on setting uniform and targeted annual charges which adversely affects us by adding to the costs required to be recovered through general rates

**Taking all things into consideration, we strongly believe that the decision to remove differentials is principally unfair and will result in significant inequity! The ongoing and major variance of property values in the rural residential sector compared to our urban counterparts along with differences in service delivery will, more than ever, influence the rating inequities that have prevailed since 1991. We say that a differential for rural residential ratepayers is well justified and should remain.**

We are signifying that any further change from the present differential between urban and rural residential general rates without compensating factors such as additional targeting needs to be subject to serious scrutiny by this Association and other rural communities. Accordingly, all of our residents and members are encouraged to make a closer examination of the likely implications of the latest changes and be prepared to support any action deemed necessary to protect our longer term interests. We will be communicating further information (both directly to members and via our website) in the near future.

# COMMUNITY BOARD UPDATE

With perhaps the most circuitous and exorbitant saga of recent times now concluded with the issue of a resource consent for the ongoing operation of the Okere Falls control gates, we can now look forward to the water in Lake Rotoiti being managed and controlled to levels not dissimilar to those we have enjoyed for the past 28 years.

We are however staggered that the cost of this consent has been \$1.84 million. (yes, that's right, \$1,840,000.00 just for obtaining the consent and that has been paid by you the ratepayer).

Of special concern, however, is the confidential settlement reached with appellant Ngati Pikiao, the agreement for ongoing research and monitoring, and the development and five yearly review of a cultural management plan. At the time of writing, the further costs of this confidential settlement and agreement are unknown but will nevertheless be a further cost to ratepayers. We have recently made submissions to the BOPRC that details of these costs be transparently included in their Ten Year Plan 2012-2022.

The detailed reticulation design for the eastern Lake Rotoiti sewerage scheme has now been completed and RDC has advised that the estimated subsidised cost of the scheme has been reduced from a total of \$18,089 per HUE (residential property) to a much more manageable \$10,009 (GST inclusive). This cost is now in line with that being paid by lakeside property owners in other areas. At the present stage progress with this eastern Rotoiti and Rotoma scheme is being held up while appeals to the proposed Lake Rotoma wastewater treatment plant are being heard.

For those ratepayers who are unable to connect to a reticulated sewage scheme, a replacement of existing septic systems to a

'high tech' system will be necessary to meet the requirements of the BOPRC's 'On-Site Effluent Treatment' (OSET) regulations. The cost of this upgrade is estimated to be in the vicinity of \$20,000 per property. At this stage, there is no financial assistance in the form of deferred payments or interest free loans available to property owners, a situation that we are sure some will find oppressively onerous. The Community Board has recently made strong submissions on this and other OSET related issues to the BOPRC. A plan change is currently being undertaken by the BOPRC and, if you will be affected by these OSET regulations, we urge you become involved and make submissions to Council.

With Lake Okataina having become infested with the obnoxious lake weed 'hornwort' in the last year or so, and with the recent announcement that it has now been found in Lake Okareka to the huge disappointment of the residents, it is perhaps timely that the BOPRC, after considerable pressure from the Community Board, have indicated in their draft Ten Year Plan that a budget of \$50,000 will be established for the 2012/13 year for the control of lake weed for amenity reasons. Some weed control has been undertaken over recent years for environmental reasons which has had some good success, particularly on Lake Rotoehu, but very little for amenity reasons in areas where we like to recreate. We are pleased to see this development and look forward to an increased control of lake weed in Lake Rotoiti for this coming summer.

**BRENTLEIGH BOND** ROTORUA LAKES COMMUNITY BOARD

FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE COMMUNITY BOARD AT (07) 362 4700 OR [GRAHAMB@CLEAR.NET.NZ](mailto:GRAHAMB@CLEAR.NET.NZ), OR THE LRCA AT [LRCA@XTRA.CO.NZ](mailto:LRCA@XTRA.CO.NZ)

licenses with you when fishing. It saves us all time in the long run.

We would like to remind all anglers that the "no boat fishing" zone within Ruato Bay is currently in force until the new season starts on 1st October. This is the second year of a three year shoreline catch rate trial planned by the Eastern Fish and Game Council.

Lake Rotoiti will close to all boat fishing at the end of June and will reopen when the new season kicks off on October 1st. Please keep checking all watersports equipment for weed and other hitchhikers when leaving waterways and before entering others. There have been recent finds of pest weeds in several lakes in our region. We want our waters to remain attractive and open for use.



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## LAKE ROTOITI HISTORY KOMUHUMUHU (GISBORNE POINT)

An important early settlement located on the north-eastern side of the headland now referred to as Gisborne Point. About 1820 Komuhumu was attacked by an army of Ngati Maru and Ngati Paoa commanded by the chiefs Te Kopara Te Himu, Te Karamu, Te Manukikaitaru and Te Ruinga.

Later Komuhumu became a centre for the propagation of Christianity. Remains of Te Rotoiti's first church (built at Te Mapou, Tapuaekura) were taken to Komuhumu during the early 1850s and used in the construction of a church there. This apparently replaced an earlier house, Tomohukahuka belonging to Mere Motuhia in which services had been held.

It seems (although this is uncertain) that once the new church was complete, parts of the older house were used elsewhere: some being given to Petera Pokino for a church he was building on Mokoia Island, and the balance used by Hona Te Hauiti and Te Morehu in the construction of a new house.

When the new church was finally abandoned, probably in the 1860s, it was given by Matene Te Huaki to Utiku. Dismantled by Utiku it was taken and re-erected at Te Awahou where it stood until at least 1906.

Those involved as lay preachers at Komuhumu included Matene Te Huaki, Eruera, Te Mapu, Hona Te Hauiti, Rewiri and Haora Matene.

The Tairawhiti invasion of 1864 saw Komuhumu used as a headquarters for troops of Te Arawa arriving to defend the district. The Tairawhiti army was defeated but much ill-feeling existed in the district



**THE IMPORTANT SETTLEMENT KOMUHUMUHU ON THE SOUTHERN SHORE OF TE ROTOITI AS DEPICTED BY ARTIST CHARLES BLOMFIELD C. 1885**

because of support offered by some local hapu members to both the invaders and the King Movement in general. As a result several settlements, including Komuhumu were abandoned, the residents shifting to the western end of Te Rotoiti.

Komuhumu was never again a major settlement.

Despite the early importance of Komuhumu, only two named houses are spoken of. One was Tomohukahuka, the other, belonging to Apikaira, was called Tikawe. There were many smaller and apparently un-named houses within the immediate settlement and in adjacent areas to the east.

An Urupa named Kohia was also said to have existed inside Komuhumu. Remains were later removed to other nearby urupa.

*Reproduced with kind permission from Landmarks of Te Arawa, Volume 2 by D.M. Stafford*

## FISH & GAME NEWS

Fish & Game are currently undertaking our autumn liberations. This consists of a total of 14,000 RPAD (right pelvic and adipose fin clipped) fingerlings along with 500 '12R' tagged fish that are being released at sites from Ruato Bay through to 'The Pipe' at Hinehopu. Fish & Game staff are out conducting shoreline surveys and checking fishing licenses throughout the winter. This winters angling has started well with some solid 5kg+ rainbows weighed in already. Please carry fishing

LONG TERM PLAN

What a busy few weeks it has been at Council. We have been listening to and reading submissions for the Long Term Plan (LTP), and now we are deliberating.

I take this process very seriously as it is probably the best way we Councillors have of really understanding what the community want/need. This year it has been a little heart breaking as there is no wriggle room in the budget. People have submitted to us for with very worthy ideas and some very worthy causes, however, we have had to defer just about all until another year.

Such a lot of money is spent just fixing things that people have broken/destroyed, cleaning the graffiti, replanting vandalised gardens and play equipment, picking up rubbish etc, the list goes on.

And it is not just the hoons. A lot of holiday homers come, clear their section, then dump their green waste just up the road. I have seen it first hand and it costs a lot to clear it. Please, if you see this, deter your neighbours from adding to our cost.

I would like to congratulate John Green on his appointment as Chairman of the Rotorua District Council Controlled Organisation for Economic Development to boost our local economy. Well done, John, and I wish you every success.

MAGGIE BENTLEY,  
COUNCILLOR, ROTORUA DISTRICT COUNCIL

West Rotoiti Volunteer Fire Unit

We had a relatively quiet summer with only three minor incidents recorded between early November and end of February (compared to 12 the year before). The damp summer probably played a major part in the lack of small and accidental vegetation fires. However, we had one memorable night in late March, during a rain storm, when we attended five calls between 10 p.m. and just after midnight, with trees blocking the main roads at several places between Allport Road and Okere Falls, in Okere Falls and on SH 30 past Hauparu Bay.

We have had a crew of 12 to 15 active members on call during the summer who all put a lot of their spare time into regular training sessions. Training attendance has been very good, resulting in our crew being very competent in the use of equipment and therefore able to respond quickly during incidents.

Our training night is every Tuesday from 7 p.m. for about two hours. It covers quite diverse topics, from basic familiarisation with equipment to setting up portable pumps and water supplies for vegetation fires, first response to vehicle accidents, basic swift water rescue skills in case of incidents on the Kaituna River and structure fire training.

Part of our response plan also covers attendance at vegetation fires on lake front areas not accessible by vehicle. Marcus and Jan Wilkins generously offered the Fire Unit the use of their double decker pontoon boat for a training night in January. Quite a lot of gear had to be transferred from fire truck to the boat for this exercise before our skipper, Neil Sutton, took us across the lake to a small bay where we made "landfall" and set up portable pumps to fight a mock vegetation fire. We also tried out several methods of using our pumps from the moving boat. This latter part of the exercise came to very good use at the end of April at a boat fire just outside of Otaramarae Bay (see photo courtesy J. Waters). Despite the burning boat being about 2 km from the Otaramarae boat ramp we were able to respond quickly with

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM, EPISODE 1.

The Government recently introduced legislation to reform local government.

An enactment clearly stating the purpose of local government would help in weighing up Community's wish-list against the desire for lower rates, but the timing is problematic.

Councils are currently deliberating on their 2012-2022 Long Term Plans, a process that must be completed by the end of June. These plans and budgets, directed by the LGA 2002, must have regard for the Social, Economic, Cultural and Environmental well being of the community.

The proposed legislation appears to significantly narrow that scope, so how does a council plan for 3 years if the goalposts will have moved for next year's Annual Plan? On Q & A Minister Carter was of the view that Councils should not get involved in education, for example, a central government responsibility.

RDC has over 80% support for continuing the City Safe Guardians, an initiative born directly out of concern for crime and disorder but clearly a Police [Central Govt] responsibility as several submitters are pointing out.

The redefined 'purpose' of LG is just part of the legislation so it is going to be an extremely interesting 12 months for Councils and their Communities.

DAVE DONALDSON  
COUNCILLOR, ROTORUA DISTRICT COUNCIL



two boats, kindly skippered by their respective owners. The larger boat carried gear and fire fighting crew and while we managed to put out the fire unfortunately it sank shortly after arrival of the Coastguard boat. Four people on board luckily escaped without serious injuries and were picked up by other boaties in the area.

I would also like to take the opportunity here to thank all those people who have supported us again over the last year, in particular those who have given financial contributions. Without this support we would be short of a few vital items on our fire appliance that we deem necessary to provide as first response in emergencies within the local community.

If you would like to contribute financially you can post a cheque to The Treasurer, c/o Carol Goodman, 12 Foster Road, Okere Falls, or if you prefer internet banking, our bank account is with BNZ Rotorua, 02-0412-0106207-000. Receipts can be issued on request. If you would like to contribute by becoming a fire fighter please contact Andi Uhl (362 4264) or Guy Nelson (362 4764). No particular skills are necessary but basic fitness helps and commitment to regular training is required.

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

ALCOHOL IN THE COMMUNITY. HAVE YOUR SAY

The Alcohol Reform Bill is set to come before Parliament again next month and will require a vote of conscience from all MPs on the alcohol purchase age. As your local MP I'm interested in your opinion. That's why I'm launching a survey online and in newspapers to let you have your say on this issue.

The survey asks a simple question. What should the alcohol purchase age be? – keep the purchase age at 18, raise it to 20 or create a split purchase age of 18 for on-licence premises such as bars, restaurants and sports clubs, and 20 for off-licences such as supermarkets and liquor stores.

I value your opinion and would be grateful for your feedback on this issue. To have your say, please keep an eye out for my newspaper surveys, fill out the online version on my website <http://www.toddmccclay.co.nz> or email me with your thoughts [rotorua.mp@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:rotorua.mp@parliament.govt.nz).

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# GARDENING NOTES: THE COOL SUBTROPICS

Like previous articles this is based around a garden at Okere Falls, Lake Rotoiti. These remarks apply to all of the Lake Rotoiti settlements, plus Lakes Rotoehu and Rotoma.

On a glorious sunny day in late May I have taken a short wander around the garden, camera in hand, to see what is in flower. Here are a few of them: *Luculias* – 3 species in flower, all with fragrant pink heads of flowers. *Dahlia imperialis 'alba'* – a white tree dahlia, with clean white flowers standing out against a deep blue sky, carried about 3 m above the ground. Dr Keith Hammett, of Auckland, has been doing some interesting breeding with this and similar species – keep an eye out for the results.

*Begonias* – *B. metallica* has attractive foliage and pink flowers year round on a shrub to about 2m, and *B. angulata* has large silver-veined leaves and pink flowers on a scrambling shrub which will reach about 3 m, or grow as a groundcover in an open sunny position. Both of these species flower non-stop throughout the year. A heavy frost may damage them, but they grow back quickly. Several *vireya* rhododendrons, including *R. tuba* (see my first article in this series for a photo), *R. 'Yellow Bunny'* (flowers on and off over most of the year) and a fine dark red *vireya* whose label has been lost, also almost ever-blooming.

*Camellias* – the popular *sasanqua* camellias are in full bloom now, with fragrant flowers in white, pink, red etc. A really good hybrid, bred by the late Os Blumhardt, a much-respected Whangarei nurseryman and plant breeder, is *C. 'Sugar Dream'* (see photo below). This gives us much pleasure in autumn, with its soft pink blooms crowned by a mass of soft yellow stamens. It also has a pleasant scent.

Amongst bulbs and rhizomes, *Iris stylosa* (a.k.a. *I. unguicularis*) is a plant that was much more commonly seen a few decades back. It has soft blue flowers of good size, with a pleasant scent. From Morocco, it likes a dryish, fairly sunny spot. Various *Nerines*, with deep red, pink, white or apricot flowers, are also performing at present. Most of our stocks came from Terry Hatch of Joy Plants near Bombay, south of Auckland. They like a warm sunny spot, as they come from South Africa. The dwarf *Cyclamen neopolitanum* (yes, from Italy) is also producing its flowers in pink or white.

So even as winter approaches there are many colourful plants to brighten the green background of your lake garden. Most of these plants need little maintenance – maybe prune them every year or three, and some minimal weed control (well that's what they get in our garden anyway!) Some of the plants that I mention in these articles are not readily available in the garden centres of today (things used to be different!) so you may need to approach other gardeners with interesting plants and beg a cutting or division. Most true gardeners will be happy to oblige.

NICK MILLER  
(NCMILLER@  
ORCON.NET.NZ)



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Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

The Lakes in the Rotorua region were busy again this summer. As a result DOC and the Regional Council had a number of calls regarding suspected pest fish and aquatic weeds. Thankfully none of those calls were from Lake Rotoiti are but we encourage locals to stay alert.

If you see a fish or aquatic weeds 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. Place the aquatic plant in a bag. This will enable accurate identification later on.
- Record any other details you can remember about the sighting including time, location, how many fish 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

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

Contacts

Valerie Raethel | Aquatic Pest Ranger  
DOC – Rotorua Lakes Area Office  
DDI: 7 3498227 Email: [vraethel@doc.govt.nz](mailto:vraethel@doc.govt.nz)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

[www.doc.govt.nz/stophthespread](http://www.doc.govt.nz/stophthespread)

[www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests/didymo](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests/didymo)

[www.boprc.govt.nz/environment/water/rotorua-lakes/](http://www.boprc.govt.nz/environment/water/rotorua-lakes/)

**PROCLAMATION**  
ROTORUA LAKES AQUATIC PESTS

**WANTED**

Before they enter the Rotorua Lakes

BROWN BULLHEAD & KOI CARP  
CATFISH

**REWARD**  
PEST FREE LAKES FOR  
ALL TO ENJOY

**PROCLAMATION**  
ROTORUA LAKES AQUATIC PESTS

**Catfish and carp are not  
known to be present in the  
Rotorua lakes or streams**

**If you catch or see these or any  
other unusual fish:**

- Record where you saw or caught it / them, time size, how many, colour etc.
- Place in a plastic bag and freeze (if caught)
- Call Dept of Conservation:  
(07) 349 7400 (office hours)  
or DOC Hotline:  
0800 362 468 (after hours)

Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

Bay of Plenty  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

**TERRAfirm**

# LAKE ROTOITI CHARITABLE TRUST

We are pleased to report to you on the activities of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2012.

Perhaps in keeping with the economy generally, the year has been the quietest since the inception of the Trust with no applications for funding being received. So, other than the usual administration including keeping accounts, having them audited and filing returns with the Charities Commission, the Trustees have had very little to do.

The purpose of the Trust is to provide funding for valid charitable purposes in New Zealand focussed on, (but not restricted to) Lake Rotoiti and its environs. This may include promoting recreational and community based activities, fostering a community spirit within Lake Rotoiti and its surrounds, and encouraging the preservation of the special character of Lake Rotoiti as a natural environment and historically significant area of New Zealand.

The current Trustees (with their dates of appointment and contacts) are as follows:

- Hugh Marston (LRCA) 16 May 2007 <h.j.marston@xtra.co.nz>
- Nick Miller (LRCA) 29 April 2009 <ncmiller@orcon.net.nz>
- Keith Smith (LRCA) 22 August 2010 <smudgeskj@slingshot.co.nz>
- Barry Bringans (BOPTYs) 22 August 2010 <adventurephotography@xtra.co.nz>
- Brentleigh Bond (LRCWBA) 16 May 2007 <grahamb@clear.net.nz>
- Greeta Hulme (LRCT) 16 May 2007 Fax. (07) 349 4258
- Ross Mabey (LRCT) 16 May 2007 <m\_mabey@xtra.co.nz>
- Paul Nichols (LRCT) 16 May 2007 <nicpeter@gmail.com>
- Ian Summersby (LRCT) 16 May 2007 <trophy@xtra.co.nz>
- Vacant (Lake Rotoiti Scenic Reserve Board)

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.

**HUGH MARSTON (CHAIR)**

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES



**Green Acres Bay of Plenty is owned and operated by Max Hughes.**

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## LAKE ROTOITI WOODEN AND CLASSIC BOATS

### PROJECTS

The major project this past year has been the clearing and development of an area at Wairau Bay. Our Association uses this bay, courtesy of The Owners and Trustees of the Paehinahina Mourea Trust, for several events on our calendar. This Trust, Chaired by Mr. Barnett Vercoe, has shown goodwill and generosity in allowing us access to private land.

The Association has signed Agreements with four Trusts regarding the installation and maintenance of four Eco Toilets, at Wairua Bay, Te Arero Bay, Piropiro Bay, and Whangamoa Point. The Association thanks The Trustees for the privilege of access to the areas mentioned above.

### ACTIVITIES

**Fishing competition**, October – A small number of entries, moderate results, but a good social day.

Poker Run. and picnic afternoon tea, 2nd January – a fun day that ended in heavy rain

**Dingy** – Seagull/small outboard motor racing day at Wairau Bay, Anniversary Weekend – A popular fun day for participants and spectators.

**Parade Day in February** – Well supported with 70 boats in all. A pleasure to see the care and workmanship lavished on many of these craft. Many of which have interesting histories chronicled by their owners. An opportunity to share knowledge and fellowship.

**Easter Light Parade** – Eight boats provided a spectacle for onlookers. A publicised route ensured that many lake residents and visitors were able to view the parade, and to show their appreciation with fireworks, horns, and cheers. The success of this event relies on participation, and we would like to encourage more members to participate.

The A.G.M of the Classic and Wooden Boat Association was held June 2nd with a very good attendance. Resignations: Chris Laird, Mike Low. Aaron Martin elected to Committee.

We look forward to another good year.

**MARCUS WILKINS | COMMODORE**

## FISHING LAKE ROTOITI - AUTUMN/WINTER 2012

Probably the most dramatic comparison between summer and autumn catch results for Lake Rotoiti relates to the notable reduction in fish in the 3 to 4.5 kg range, compared to last summer.

This may be attributed, in part, to the unfavourable weather conditions for most of the summer. Trout are cold blooded and achieve their best growth rate in water temperatures between 16-18°C. This temperature envelope combined with reduced spring and summer smelt runs clearly contributed to lower catch results for many anglers.

Late lake stratification and thermocline development also had an effect on fishing, in particular 'jigging'. This method relies heavily on smelting fish in numbers at a particular depth. Low lake temperatures for most of the summer reduced fish concentrations on many structures, resulting in lower than normal catch results.

Anglers combining harling and trolling techniques with jigging at various depths have achieved the best results.

On a more positive note, autumn/winter fishing has been phenomenal

to date compared to last season, with hot spots Ruato, Transformer and The Pipe firing early and producing many fish in excess of 4.5 kg and several over 6 kg!

Early and late harling in the Gisborne Point region, particularly along weed beds, has produced sensational results, both in size and numbers.

Since early April, the Wairoa fish trap at Lake Tarawera has seen a constant run of fish and bodes well for some excellent winter fly fishing.

The last of the autumn/winter liberations were completed in late May, with some 14,500 18cm yearlings being released into Lake Rotoiti

Best fly fishing results in the Ruato to Pipe region normally occur during inclement weather, with little or no moon, combined with an onshore breeze so adequate clothing and a hot thermos should be part of your preparation.

FOR PROFESSIONAL ADVICE AND CHARTER OR GUIDING SERVICES  
CONTACT: GLENN SKINNER | THE TROUT CONNECTION PH 0273 232 336



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Glen 021-139-8860  
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**Steve Howard & Lisa Crowe**



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**Steve Howard - m 021 722 408**

**Lisa Crowe - m 0274 961 935**

In times of uncertainty call the Lakes Team for good advice and local knowledge.

# WEST ROTOITI CARE GROUP

The major activity for 2012 to date was a clean up day in April. This took place on the roadside at Okere on S.H. 33. The plantings there have matured well, so have the weeds. We had four operators with weed eaters tidying the margins of the plantings, and other hardy souls down the bank tackling the weeds and vines which threaten to strangle even the more mature trees. Ongoing spraying of weeds is required. Other areas, such as at Whangamarino, are developing well, needing little input now apart from weed spraying.

Roadside rubbish is an ongoing problem. We are grateful to the regular walkers who maintain Te Akau and Okere Roadsides.

Thank you to all volunteers who have worked with me on our projects and to the individuals who keep areas specific to their locality in order. Management of all plantings is ongoing and all support is greatly appreciated. Come and join us!

JAN WILKINS 07 362 4976

## WAINGARO LAMB SHANKS

This recipe comes from the farming ladies of the Waingaro area who published a fund raiser cook book many years ago.

It is a fabulous recipe, primarily designed for lamb shanks however it can be used for cheaper cuts of meat - pork hocks (remove the skin) or frozen neck chops which are often on special

INGREDIENTS: 6 Shanks

2 cloves of garlic (paste is fine)

2 tbsp tomato paste

1-1/2 cups water

1-1/2 cups red wine

3 large onions sliced

1 cup of raisins/sultanas (optional)

3 tsp brown shugar (leave out if using raisins/sultanas)

METHOD: Salt, pepper and flour the shanks then brown in a little oil. Place in a casserole dish along with browned onions.

Bring red wine, water, tomato paste, garlic, raisins/brown sugar to the boil and pour over the shanks. Cook in oven with lid on for 2-3 hours at 150°C

## RHUBARB RELISH

INGREDIENTS: 4 cups diced rhubarb

4 cups diced onions

2 cups vinegar

750 gms brown sugar

1 tsp salt

1 cup sultanas

1 tsp ground cloves

METHOD: Cook rhubarb and vinegar for 1/4 hour. Add all other ingredients except sultanas and simmer with lid off for 3/4 hr. Add sultanas and boil vigorously for 5 minutes, stirring all the time. If you want a smooth relish then blend when cooled slightly



Anglican Church in Aotearoa,  
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## TE NGAE PASTORATE SERVICES

St Mary's Anglican Church - MOUREA  
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St Marks Anglican Church - OWHATA  
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Fire, Police, Ambulance, Search & Rescue 111

Accident/Medical Centre 348-1000

Urgent Pharmacy 348-4385

Rotorua Hospital 348-1199

St John Ambulance 0800-426-285

National Poisons Centre 0800-764-766

Rotorua Police Station 348-0099

Neighbourhood Support 349-9470

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 (7 day)  
or 07-921-03375  
0800-368-267

Lake Wardens: Mark Farrant 0274-599-006  
Max Hughes 0274-966-759  
Keith Waddell 021-059-5162  
Fraser Wilson 0274-965-070

Coastguard 348-9022

Marine Radio 348-7429

Dept. of Conservation 349-7400

M.A.F. 0800-809-966

Fish & Game Eastern 357-5501

Fish & Game Licences 0800-542-362

Poaching 0800-762-244

Environment Bay of Plenty 0800-368-267

Rotorua District Council 348-4199

Rotorua Lakes Community Board 362-4700

Lakes Maintenance 362-4814

Pumps - Hi Flo Pumps 348-7516 (24hrs)

Septic Tanks  
- Rotorua Waste Disposal 332-2791  
- (Mobile) 021-349-236

Emery Store 362-7866

Happy Angler Store 362-4709

Okere Falls Store 362-4944

Rotoma General Store 362-0722

# REFUSE DISPOSAL

## WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD REFUSE COLLECTION

Only RDC Official Bags will be collected  
Tie bags securely  
Place at kerbside by 8 a.m. on collection day  
Lake Rotoiti Collection day is each MONDAY  
No changes to collection days on Public  
Holidays

## REFUSE & RECYCLING OKERE TRANSFER STATION

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Hours: 1 pm - 4.30 pm Wednesday  
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7.30 am - 4.30 pm  
Sunday and Public Holidays  
9.30 am - 4.30 pm

CLOSED Christmas Day

Landfill Fees Apply

## MARINE RADIO ROTORUA FREQUENCIES

Coastguard Radio conducts four radio  
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Scheduled times are:-

0745-0800

1130-1145

1530-1545

1800-1815

Channel 81 is the calling frequency  
and closes down at 1830 for this area.

Working frequencies are 06, 08 and  
64. Please use these vessel to vessel.  
Visitors to the area are welcome to use  
these services.

Rotorua Lakes Coastguard uses channel  
86 for Search and Rescue. Please avoid  
using this channel.

Frequent visitors are encouraged to  
support this service by joining the  
Rotorua VHF Marine Radio Association.  
Please contact The Secretary at Box  
8000, Western Heights, Rotorua, or  
phone 07 348 2318

# MEDICAL SERVICES

## ACCIDENT & URGENT MEDICAL CENTRE

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## ROTORUA HOSPITAL

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Phone 07-3481199

(Call 111 for Ambulance Service)

Patient enquiries 07-3497977 (Mon-Fri)

## LAKESCARE (URGENT) PHARMACY

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## TE NGAE PHARMACY

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West Rotoiti Volunteer Fire Unit who could  
be with you a lot faster than an ambulance  
coming from Rotorua.

## INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING?

We are always pleased to receive  
relevant items for inclusion in this  
newsletter. If you have an article  
or contribution please contact  
lrca@xtra.co.nz

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## LRCA CONTACT DETAILS

All written correspondence should be sent to:

The Secretary

LRCA

Postal Delivery Centre

Mourea 3074

Email: lrca@xtra.co.nz

Website: www.rototoiti.co.nz



BETWEEN WATERWAYS