

# LAKE ROTOITI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.

## NEWSLETTER SPRING 2016

### CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2016

This newsletter contains several items of interest to our community and I would urge you to read about them. Some of these items include:

#### FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS

We are fortunate to have two members of our Committee standing for the Community Board in the forthcoming elections, together with a member of our community who has served on our Committee in the past. I would urge you to ensure that you vote.

**Phill Thomass** has already served one term on the Community Board and done an excellent job for our community by working closely with both Councillors and Council staff to progress matters important to us. He chairs the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Operational Liaison Group (RTALOLG) which oversees the operational regime for the Okere Gates and the Ohau Channel Weir and he is on the Steering Committee for the Rotoma Rotoiti Sewerage Scheme (RRSSC), amongst other tasks.

**Jim Stanton** has also decided to stand for the Community Board. Jim is well known to so many and has been heavily involved in matters affecting our community for more than 20 years. Jim chaired LRCA for ten years and has remained a Committee Member always offering insightful advice. He is deeply respected. He would be a tremendous asset to the Community Board.

In addition, **Warren Webber** has decided to stand for Rotorua Lakes Council. Warren has put a huge amount of work into 'Out of the Forest by 2019' and has acted as the independent Chair to work through the decision making process for this important issue. He is passionate about the welfare of our lake and is co-opted to our Committee.

#### RATING EQUITY UPDATE

Many of the community associations in the district are now meeting with Council to work through this issue. Jim Stanton has lead our representation and an update of the situation is included in this Newsletter.

#### CHANGES TO OUR RUBBISH COLLECTION AND OUR TRANSFER STATION

The Council has changed contractors for rubbish collection and management of Transfer Stations within the District. There have been many issues with regard to the working of the new contract and your Committee has had numerous meetings with council staff to iron out problems. . New Transfer Station opening times are on the back of this newsletter. The new contract for kerbside collection comes into force at the beginning of October. Please do not hesitate to email us ([lrca@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lrca@xtra.co.nz)) if you are experiencing problems with either the Transfer Station or kerbside collection.

#### ROTORUA LAKES WEED SURVEY

Please ensure that you complete this survey. The completion date has been extended and it is imperative that Regional Council is aware of the need to work urgently on the matter of weed in our lakes.

**HILARY PRIOR** | (CHAIRPERSON) [LRCA@XTRA.CO.NZ](mailto:LRCA@XTRA.CO.NZ)

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

# RATING EQUITY FURTHER ERODED

We have continued to pursue a more equitable rating policy for rural (particularly lakes) residents as part of our submissions to last year's round of Rotorua Lakes Council's Long Term Planning and this year's Annual Plan. The LTP included a one-off overall 'average' increase of 7% for FY2016 (to allow for a 'balanced budget' following several years of underfunded capital spending) and increases which are more relative to the annual CPI in subsequent years.

So in the 2015-16 year, 'general' rates increased 8% for both rural and urban residential, 11% for Business and 15% for Farming. The primary drivers for these variances were based around the most recent property revaluations along with proposed changes to the Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) and differentials. Much of the first year increase was intended to relieve increased debt levels. This year (2016-17), rural residential rates increased by an average 5.4% as opposed to around 2% for all other sectors due to the penultimate 5% reduction in our differential.

The crux of our discontent continues to surround the equitable apportionment of rates across the sectors, particularly the significant difference between urban and rural residential general rates. This gap will only widen with the gradual removal of the rural differential over the years 2015-18. The LTP proposal to reduce the UAGC from the present \$540 to \$500 contributes to the negative impact on many (lakes) ratepayers.

We accept the premise that rates are primarily a tax on property values, along with charges for services and benefits received via a combination of targeted and general rates. And most of us are happy to pay a fair share towards the costs required to meet essential maintenance along with improvements to infrastructure and amenities that have significant community support. What we do not accept is the continual erosion of equity that the rural differential has provided given the constantly

significant variance of 65-75% between average urban and rural residential property values coupled with the reduced availability of and access to services and amenities for most rural residents.

It is our firm belief that RLC are failing to meet the requirements for fairness and equity as intended by the Local Government Rating Act in pursuing their present policy towards removal of differentials without apparent compensatory measures. Discussions around these concerns with Council representatives over an 18 month period leading up to the end of 2013 saw some promising options being put forward designed to rectify the imbalance. Disappointingly, we have been unable to gain any further traction since.

Many will recall that we encountered a very similar scenario in 1990 which triggered huge resistance from hundreds of lakes residents. This resulted in a Council retraction and a satisfactory and appropriate differential being negotiated. Current proposals mean this will turn full circle which are deemed to be as unacceptable now as they were then. We believe Council should seriously address these inequities by utilising the tools at their disposal, i.e. more comprehensive targeting and/or adjusting the UAGC and/or applying appropriate differentials. These objectives may again require your collective support.

A number of meetings amongst representatives of the Lakes Community Board member Associations (including Hamurana) have been convened this year to determine common strategies towards furthering the debate. These have included meeting with Council's Chief Financial Officer and more recently as part of Ratepayer Group discussions with Mayor Steve Chadwick and CEO Geoff Williams to identify and promote important issues. A rating review is proposed as a forerunner to the next LTP and we expect to have representation. Members will be kept up to date via email and our website.



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# THERE IS MORE TO DO

## OPEN SPACES – ENHANCED ENVIRONMENT

"Vision 2030" is our Council Vision for the future of the District. One of seven goals we set in 2013 was to enhance our environment, Tiakino to taiao.

We want to be known globally for our clean, natural environment, air quality and healthy lakes and do more with our untapped geothermal energy.

We established seven Councillor lead portfolios with a community lead steering group.

Council joined the United Nations Global Compact Cities programme in 2015 and undertook a district scan. This informed the development of our "Rotorua Sustainable Living Strategy" that is currently out to you the community for feedback.

## ACHIEVEMENTS:

Our lakes are our treasure and we now have a programme to improve the water quality of our lakes with land use change to reduce 100 tonnes of nitrogen going into the lakes worth more than \$243million. This is coupled with upgrades to sewage schemes and engineering solutions within the lakes.

## "OUT OF THE FOREST" BY 2019.

A community lead steering committee was formed to develop a plan for the upgrade of our Waste Water Treatment plant to accommodate the return of recovered wastewater from the forest. Budget in the Long Term plan is \$18.6million. The preferred upgrade and disposal option would cost \$29million and would cost less to operate than the forest system saving operating costs.

## EAST ROTOITI AND ROTOMA SEWERAGE SCHEME

A community lead steering group has agreed a preferred option for a community scheme that includes grinder pumps to connect Rotoma

houses and Biolytics units for Rotoiti subject to a trial.

Government subsidies for the \$31.7 scheme total \$24.4 million. The cost per household if the scheme advances will be \$12,200 spread over 25 years.

Council is also a member on the joint working party with the Regional Council on the Air Quality Plan and the Geothermal Working Party.

## WHEN RE ELECTED, MY PLEDGE TO YOU:

- We will continue with the Portfolio approach. This will be essential to implement the Sustainable Living Strategy.
- We will continue to work on Lakes water quality projects with Te Arawa Lakes Trust and the Regional Council.
- We will work with the Regional Council on a spatial plan for the District.
- We will review the implementation of the district wide waste reduction scheme and kerbside recycling.
- We will work toward an Innovation Centre for Fresh water and land use change.

We will do this in partnership with community groups, business, Research Institutions, Melbourne and Waikato Universities, Iwi and the Regional Council.

"Tatou Tatou" – We together.



STEVE CHADWICK | MAYOR



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# UPDATE

## ROTORUA LAKES COMMUNITY BOARD

Suddenly it's Election time again! It is amazing how quickly 3 years has gone by for the Community Board, although having said that, there have been some issues that have seemed to be never-ending in getting them resolved!

One such issue has been the new rubbish collection and transfer station contracts. After good engagement with our lakeside communities over a year ago, the Community Board and local community associations all thought we had a good understanding of what promised to be a step-up in service once the new contract came into force. Instead, to say the implementation of the new contract at the two transfer stations around our lakes was poor would be putting it mildly!

The Community Board, LRCA and Tarawera Ratepayers Association have had an almost continuous stream of meetings with Council trying to resolve the issues at the Transfer Stations. Hopefully we can now see light at the end of the tunnel as we seem to have a workable model which will be trialled shortly. One positive for Okere Falls is that your Transfer station will have a drop-off facility for domestic rubbish (in council bags) and recycling which will be open 7 days a week. We hope to see this in place for summer.

Of course the Community Board has had a number of successes on your behalf over the last 3 years! Around Rotoiti we have seen the building of toilets at Lower Trout Pool and the Delta, work started to try to relieve the congestion at Otaramarae boat ramp, and a commitment to improve launch facilities at Gisborne Point to name a few.

The coming election will see big changes for the Community Board. Only one sitting member (Phill Thomass) is standing for the Community Board again, and while another member is standing for Council, our two long serving Board Members Geoff Palmer and Leo Meharry are stepping down.

Geoff Palmer has been on the Community Board since its inception serving 3 terms, the last as Chair. He has tirelessly championed not only Okareka where he lives, but all our lakes in

that time. He has seen and helped lead the development of the Community Board through its early days of distrust and hostility from Council, to the much warmer and respectful relationship the Board has with the current council and its staff. Alongside his roles on the Board he has been a Community Board representative at the national level of LGNZ. His commitment to the Lake Okareka community is well known, while he has been chair, their Ratepayers' association has been a source of inspiration to our other communities in what they have been able to achieve, from running their local camp grounds to building public walkways around the lake edge, to their very active care-group.

Leo Meharry is well known around Rotoiti, not only from having looked after many peoples' bach rentals and repairs over the years, but also for the huge amount of energy he has put into water safety as a Lake Warden on both Rotoma and Rotoiti. Leo has served 2 terms on the Board, and his no-nonsense approach to issues has seen him being able to address many problems quietly and behind the scenes. He too has been a champion for his home lake, Rotoma, but he has always had a keen interest in the wellbeing of Rotoiti as well.

Our communities owe a great deal of thanks to both Geoff and Leo for the huge amount of work they have done for us.

The incoming Community Board will face a number of new challenges. The catchment has been expanded to include Hamurana, and this in itself will mean the next board will have to change how it engages with the individual communities around the lakes. It will also need to come to terms with the issues facing Lake Rotorua. The new roles and responsibilities recommended to the incoming Council will also, if put in place, mean another step-up in the Board's ability (and workload!) to help shape the future as well as the present of our lakes. The next three years will be an exciting time for our next Community Board!

### PHILL THOMASS

ELECTED MEMBER, ROTORUA LAKES COMMUNITY BOARD

## ROTORUA TE ARAWA LAKES AQUATIC WEED CONTROL MANAGEMENT

Kieran Miller of Boffa Miskell is carrying out a survey with regard to weed control management. We recommend that you go to the LRCA Website ([www.rototoiti.co.nz](http://www.rototoiti.co.nz)) and download a copy of the survey and complete same.



HOGWART



EGERIA Densa



# ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL **OPEN SPACES UPDATE**

The Rotorua Lakes Council have recently completed an extension to the parking area at Otaramarae and would encourage all users to try and make the best use of this space when parking vehicles and trailers.

It may be necessary to create more individual spaces using half-rounds or something similar rather than leaving it as a large open space and the Council will assess how well the space is being used before initiating possible changes.

Council is also going through the process of re-consenting a large number of their jetties and boat ramps around the lakes and this requires approvals from Te Arawa Lakes Trust and Land Information New Zealand as well as other affected parties.

We have approximately 90 consents that need to be renewed over the next two years and this first round includes Otaramarae and Ohau Delta ramp and jetty structures.

The Gisborne Point No 2 boat ramp and jetty development was identified as a priority by the Rotorua Lakes Community Board and the during the Long Term Planning considerations the Council identified some possible funding sources for this type of work in Year 3 of the LTP. Council staff will be working on further developing this project over the 2016-2017 year to see if it can be worked into the 2017-2018 capital works programme.

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# BAY OF PLENTY REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWS:

## HELP PROTECT THE TREASURED KAITUNA RIVER

Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority has been working on the draft Kaituna River Document since 2014. 'Kaituna he taonga tuku iho – a treasure gifted to us' is the draft name for the Document.

### Tell us what you think

Te Maru wants to check in with the community and any interested stakeholders to see if they're on the right track. They have come up with a draft Vision, Objectives and Desired Outcomes that will form part of the Document and welcome your feedback.

- Download the feedback form and use the freepost envelope to send it back
- Complete the online survey. It takes no longer than 5 minutes.
- Email your comments to [feedback@kaituna.org.nz](mailto:feedback@kaituna.org.nz)
- Come along to the Open Information Session on Wednesday 14 September between 12:30pm-2:30pm at the Te Puke Library
- Or call 0800 884 880 to talk to Adam Fort or Anaru Vercoe

Check out [www.kaituna.org.nz](http://www.kaituna.org.nz) for more information on Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority and the preparation of the Kaituna River Document.



Te Maru o Kaituna is the co-governance partnership established by the Tapuika Claims Settlement Act 2014, made up of four iwi representatives and four local authority representatives.



## DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

### ROAD WASH OUT

Due to recent heavy rainfall, sections of Hamilton Road have been badly washed out in several places. The affected sections occur in Department of Conservation administered Rotoehu Conservation area, although DOC does not maintain this road. It is currently unsuitable for 2WD vehicles although experienced drivers of 4WD vehicles may be able to navigate the road. The Department and Rotorua Lakes Council will shortly erect signage to this effect.

Enquiries:  
[pcashmore@doc.govt.nz](mailto:pcashmore@doc.govt.nz)  
07 349 7400.



HAMILTON ROAD

## CATFISH UPDATE

### Brown Bullhead Catfish

Bay of Plenty Regional Council staff have been working hard to find and remove catfish from Lake Rotoiti following the discovery of brown bullhead catfish during weed harvester work in Te Weta Bay last March. It was the first time a live catfish had been found in any of Rotorua's lakes and council staff are hopeful that the unwanted pest fish can be eradicated. Catfish are an unwanted pest because they eat small native fish and trout, and degrade water quality by stirring up sediment to feed.

### What has been done so far?

Regional Council has been working with Fish and Game New Zealand, Department of Conservation, Te Arawa Lakes Trust, NIWA and University of Waikato to search for catfish and manage the incursion.

Thorough searches of Lakes Rotoiti, Tarawera and parts of Lakes Rotoehu and Rotorua have been completed using fyke nets and electric fishing. A total of 390 catfish have now been found and removed from the vicinity of Lake Rotoiti's Te Weta Bay. With the exception of one fish caught in Okere Arm, no catfish have been found in any other parts of Lake Rotoiti or in any other Rotorua lakes so far.

### Where to from here?

Council is now exploring options to trap any remaining catfish in Te Weta Bay by extending the existing weed cordon. Boats would still be



BROWN BULLHEAD CATFISH (AMEIURUS NEBULOSUS)



LAKE ROTOITI - CATFISH CAUGHT, MARCH TO JUNE 2016

able to enter and exit the bay through the cordon channel. Anyone wishing to discuss proposed cordon changes should contact Shane Grayling at Regional Council on 0800 884 880.

Evidence from Lake Taupo suggests that the preferred habitat of catfish changes from shallow weedy bays to rocky sites during winter. The area in front of Te Weta bay is rocky, however catfish become less active and harder to catch in lower water temperatures.

More netting will be needed once water temperatures rise and before any cordon extension work is progressed to check that the remaining catfish have not moved out of the bay.

Council is also working with NIWA and University of Waikato to investigate other tools that could assist in catfish eradication including use of DNA detection sampling, and tracking tools to increase understanding of catfish habits and behaviour in the lake.

### What can you do to help?

Please report any catfish or other pest sightings, or illegal releases to 0800 STOP PESTS (0800 786 773). Find out more at [www.boprc.govt.nz/aquaticpests](http://www.boprc.govt.nz/aquaticpests).

You can help stop the spread of catfish or other freshwater pests by checking and cleaning all your boating and water sports gear before using it in a different waterway, every time.

## PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE TO THE ROTORUA LAND TREATMENT SYSTEM

On 23rd June 2016 the Rotorua Lakes Council recorded the following Minutes:

1. That Council proceed to a resource consent application of the preferred upgrade of the Rotorua Wastewater Treatment Plant, which includes conversion of the existing plant into a full Membrane Bioreactor (MBR) with additional phosphorous removal and the addition of Ultraviolet Disinfection (UV) system.
2. That the committee recommends to Council to proceed to a resource consent application for the Rotorua Wastewater Treatment Plant discharge, on the basis of the preferred option:
  - (a) The identified option to discharge through to Puarenga Bay and;
  - (b) To continue to work with interested parties including Mana Whenua and Te Tatau o Te Arawa, to investigate alternate discharge options, including the reuse of recovered water.
3. That the committee recommends to Council to note that the estimated capital cost of the preferred wastewater treatment plant upgrade and the discharge to Puarenga Bay is \$29 million. The budget allocation for this project in the Long Term Plan is \$18.6 million.
4. That the committee recommends that Council acknowledge and thank the Rotorua Project Steering Committee and all parties involved in the process, culminating to this decision.



## WARREN WEBBER

### VOTE WEBBER, VOTE BETTER STANDING FOR ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL

Warren has for over 15 years shown what can be done in Rotorua. He has been a leader in efforts to fix the lakes, and in work to get Rotorua sewage out of the forest. He has sought the best deal for farmers and for the lakes, and shown how to work with the community - both pakeha and Maori.

Warren is an evidence-based thinker who knows it is time to end the in-fighting on Council and get on with the business. He is an experienced project manager with a background as a farmer, veterinarian and professional educator. Qualifications include a BA, DipAg, and BVetSc.

Warren is passionate about clean water, innovative business, economic growth and a safe, vibrant community. He lives at Okere Falls and is married with two adult children.

Warren Webber offers broad professional skills to make this Council stronger.



## PHILL THOMASS

### STANDING FOR ROTORUA LAKES COMMUNITY BOARD

Our lake communities are an important part of Rotorua. Our issues differ from those of the city. Each lakeside community has its own special needs.

Phill Thomass won't let the council neglect the Lakes or Hamurana.

Phill will work for the lakes and their people.

Phill will fight for a fair deal on rates.

Phill Thomass has a passion for our lakes. For many years he's worked on Lakes issues. Whether water quality, sewerage, footpaths or rubbish collection - he's been there on behalf of lakes communities.

Our communities need strong representation to prosper. The expanded Board faces new challenges. It needs leaders with a proven record of persuading council. Phill Thomass has that record.

Phill has lived at Rotoiti for 15 years. He has served on the Lakes Community Board for 3 years. He is active in community associations.

Phill listens to the community. Then he acts effectively.

## JIM STANTON

### STANDING FOR ROTORUA LAKES COMMUNITY BOARD

As a permanent resident and proactive committee member of Lake Rotoiti Community Association for 20 plus years (10 as Chair) I have served to help represent the interests of all residents and ratepayers within the locality. This has included ongoing involvement in numerous campaigns and proposals for social and environmental improvements along with equitable rating and fair allocation of resources, particularly in regard to issues surrounding lakes water quality, recreational enhancements and core services such as water, sewerage, refuse etc.

With a broad knowledge of community and local government activities and initiatives within our boundaries and the wider region, I would continue to promote the concerns and expectations of our residents and property owners if elected to Rotorua Lakes Community Board.

I believe I have the ability to engage at all levels and provide balanced views over the important and everyday issues which confront our local communities and the District.

## ROTORUA LAKES COMMUNITY BOARD ELECTIONS

### VOTE PHILL THOMASS

Vote Rotorua Lakes Community

*I won't let Council neglect the Lakes and Hamurana*

Our issues differ from those of the city. Council needs to acknowledge this!

Ensure Strong Effective Representation for our lakes - RE-ELECT PHILL THOMASS

find out more - [facebook.com/phillthomass2016](https://facebook.com/phillthomass2016)

authorised by Phill Thomass 54 Tamatea St RD4 Rotorua





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# IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

## HAVE YOUR SAY AT THE 2016 LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS

Local Body Elections will be held around New Zealand between the 16th September - 8th of October. This is your chance, whether you are a permanent resident or the owner of a holiday house, to have your say in who represents you at Council.

### WHY YOU SHOULD REGISTER AND VOTE

Rotorua has a 'first-past-the-post at large' system, which means that Councillors represent everyone. This election is for a Mayor and 10 councillors (down from 12). We also have a Community Board that is elected alongside of, but not part of, Council, comprising 4 elected members. This year the Lakes Community Board has been expanded to include Hamurana. This has nearly doubled the number of voters in the Community Board area.

The election of Council politicians at large and the increase in voters for the Lakes Community Board means that the voice of the Rotoiti community with its large number of holiday homes becomes proportionately weaker with everyone who can't or does not vote. It is evident that as a community we are up against groups and communities that represent a greater number of votes than we do and the political reality is that our Councillors react to votes.

A seemingly never ending issue for the Lakes communities is how our rates are determined. We have seen a major change and we need a strong community voice also reflected in the number of votes we muster to have any effect on council policy at the upcoming review of rating policy.

Although the rolls have closed, it's not too late to register - you can still do a late enrolment.

### HOW YOU CAN ENSURE YOU ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE.

There are two ways you can vote in the Rotorua Local Body Elections - either as a residential elector if you live in the Rotorua electoral boundaries, or as a ratepayer elector.

### RESIDENTIAL ELECTORS

Any person who is registered with an address in the Rotorua electoral area on the General Parliamentary Roll is automatically enrolled. You can check if you are enrolled - and if you aren't, enrol - at any Post Office, or online at [elections.org.nz/voters](http://elections.org.nz/voters) (click on enrol check or update from the drop-down menu). Every person at your address who is registered on the Rotorua Electoral Parliamentary Roll is entitled to vote in the Rotorua Local Body Elections. Since you'll be a late enrolment, you need to ask for your voting papers to be sent to you (email [rotoruadc@electionz.com](mailto:rotoruadc@electionz.com)), or you'll have to go into Council to vote.

### RATEPAYER ELECTORS

If you have a holiday home at the lake you're likely to fall into this category. If you are a ratepayer but live outside the area you are not automatically entitled to vote, but all is not lost! Section 24 of the Local Electoral Act 2001 provides that every person who is registered as a parliamentary elector outside the Rotorua district qualifies as a "ratepayer elector" provided that person is on the appropriate valuation roll as a ratepayer of a rating unit within the district.

As usual in these matters, a form needs to be filled in and this can be downloaded from [www.rdc.govt.nz](http://www.rdc.govt.nz). Click on the Vote 2016 logo, and then click on "Enrol" from the menu on the left hand side of the page. The form for 'non-resident ratepayers' is at the bottom of the page.

There are some conditions outlined on the form which mean that only one person per rateable property can register to vote. Since you'll be a late enrolment, you need to ask for your voting papers to be sent to you (email [rotoruadc@electionz.com](mailto:rotoruadc@electionz.com)), or you'll have to go into Council to vote.

If you are not already on the Local Body electoral roll, either as a residential or ratepayer elector please take the effort to enrol. Enrolment doesn't take long and we believe your support in this way is necessary to ensure strong community representation.

It's not too late to register to vote! Even if you have not registered yet, you can still do a late enrolment. Just follow the instructions above, then ask Council how you get your voting papers.

## HON TODD MCCLAY MP FOR ROTORUA

Rotorua's lakes and rivers are a great source of pride. They provide us with great recreational spaces and are a huge attraction for our booming tourism sector. Our freshwater resources are an integral part of Kiwi culture, which is why the Government is more committed than ever to progressively cleaning up New Zealand's lakes and rivers.

Lake Rotoiti is unique and it is great to see residents, the Rotorua Lakes Council, the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, lake users and the wider community work together to preserve the future of the lake. In particular I want to acknowledge the efforts of the Lake Rotoiti

Community Association. Under the leadership of chairperson Hilary Prior, the group works tirelessly for the home owners, residents and lake users in this area. These efforts should be congratulated. It is great to know there is such a strong sense of community.

Having good quality, clean freshwater has always been one of the National Government's top priorities and we continue to build on our solid track record.

I look forward to seeing you all out enjoying the lake this summer.

**THE HON TODD MCCLAY | MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR ROTORUA**





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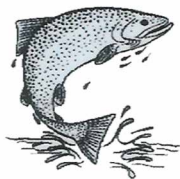
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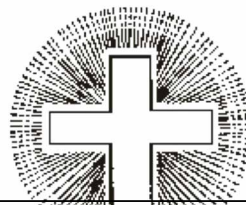
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## LAKE WEED AND PEST FISH MANAGEMENT PLANS:

Following representation last year, after our symposium Lake weeds and Wallabies, the Bay of Plenty Regional Council (Council) have agreed and started the process of establishing Weed and Pest Management Plans for all of our lakes. We have set an aspirational goal of managing and where possible eliminating introduced lake weeds within 10 years. Likewise, pest fish will be covered by the management plan to ensure their elimination if practicable. A key issue will be to raise awareness and reduce the risk of introduction and spread. We now have a committee that meets regularly with Council to provide community aspirations and input. Good progress has been made and Boffa Miskell have been contracted to complete plans by year end.

### ENDOTHALL:

Endothall is a systemic spray that kills the entire plant including the roots and is effective against both lagarosiphon and hornwort. These are two key lake weeds that are increasingly invading our lakes. The former was introduced to Rotorua in the late 1950's and subsequently spread to all but 2 of our lakes by 1990. Hornwort was a later arrival, again into Rotorua and now spread to 7 of our lakes. Council have nearly eliminated hornwort from Okataina and Okareka. Otherwise where these weeds have established there has only been cosmetic spraying for boat access.

A consent is being prepared by Council, this includes consultation with stakeholders. Once completed, it will be filed and is likely to be advertised. At this stage we will need your support to demonstrate public demand for improved weed control.

### CATFISH:

The finding of catfish in Te Weta Bay, Lake Rotoiti, has been a major concern but a strong response has been forthcoming from Council.

To date, over 390 catfish have been caught in fyke nets, there have been 4 cohorts (age groups) caught, confirming that they are well established and breeding within Te Weta Bay.

### THE FOLLOWING UPDATE IS PROVIDED FROM BOPRC

Update from Shane Grayling

Initially we only caught catfish in Te Weta bay and the single fish in Okere Arm. Later, in June we started getting the odd fish just outside of Te Weta bay but within 400m of the bay entrance. Evidence from Taupo suggests that preferred habitat changes from shallow weedy bays to rocky sites during winter, the area in front of Te Weta bay is just that, rocky.

We also found that catch per unit effort (number of catfish caught per net) dropped as the water temperature did. I would love to think that this was because we were making a dent on the population but could be linked to a reduction in metabolism

heading into the colder months or that they have shifted out of the bay.

Summary Stats for Lake Rotoiti:

- No of nights netted = 34
- Number of nets set = 772
- No. of catfish caught = 390 (389 via fyke net, 1 via UOW electric fishing boat)
- No. of catfish caught within Te Weta bay = 379
- No. of catfish outside Te Weta bay but within 400m of entrance = 10
- No. of catfish caught further than 400m of Te Weta bay entrance = 1

Council have adopted a policy of elimination if practicable. Further evidence is still being gathered but weed cordons are likely to be used in an attempt to confine the population to Te Weta Bay. Both Te Weta and Okawa Bays have been sprayed to reduce cover and provide a better opportunity for identification and control.

### OTHER AREAS WE ARE INVOLVED IN:

- The Rotorua City sewerage upgrade is a very positive development and supported by us.
- The Rotoma and Eastern Rotoiti sewerage is progressing positively and fully supported by our Society.
- The Ohau Channel diversion wall consent renewal has commenced, assessment and consultation process is being undertaken, it is vital to Lake Rotoiti and we are actively engaged.
- The Okere Gates are similarly up for review, cultural assessments are being undertaken, again we are engaged.
- Lake Rotorua alum impact assessment is awaited with keen interest.

### SUBMISSIONS:

In the last 6 months we have made submissions on the following:

- 2016 Endothall consent – outlines our reasons why we seek the consent
- Bay of Plenty Regional Council Annual Plan – provides an overview of our aspirations and ongoing work
- Plan Change No 10 Lake Rotorua Nutrient Management – supports proposed rules and outlines the consultative process undertaken through StAG
- Navigational Safety Bylaw Review – request controls on boats to prevent the spread of lake weeds and pest fish
- Fresh Water Forum – supports National water standards and objectives

These submissions can be all found at our web site at this address:

[lakeswaterquality.co.nz/submissions](http://lakeswaterquality.co.nz/submissions)

**DON ATKINSON** CHAIRMAN



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## FISH & GAME NEWS

Anglers fishing Lake Rotoiti over the 2015-16 summer had slightly better catch rates compared to the 2014-15 summer. Catch rates were just above the average of the last ten year period with one fish caught for slightly less than four hours effort. Deeper fishing methods were most successful with downrigger trolling producing highest catch rates followed by wire line trolling then jigging. The average sized fish caught (and measured during surveys) over the 2015-16 summer was significantly longer and heavier than the 2014-15 summer fish. Fish averaged 550mm and 2.14kg. However size variation between seasons was due to a lower percentage of the younger rising 2-year fish appearing in anglers catch. Anglers perceived that catch rate and fish size were improved compared to the 2014-15 summer. Angler satisfaction was slightly lower than during the 2014-15 summer, however 96% of anglers reported they were satisfied with their summers fishing.

The winter angling was best described as slow but steady. There were always some fish present to cast a line to, but the winter seemingly only produced one night when a lot of fish ran toward the shoreline areas. Fewer anglers were noted turning out to fish.

Fish & Game staff will be releasing the spring portion of the annual trout stocking program over September and October. Stocking rates to Rotoiti remain at 28,500 yearlings. The lake is stocked at this level due to the high numbers of anglers fishing the lake and a lack of quality spawning streams available. In short, Rotoiti could not keep up to the angling pressure without a little help.

The Ohau Channel fished fairly well over the 2015-16 season, with large runs of smelt and improved trout fishing recorded. Important news for anglers, there will be fish passes installed shortly to facilitate passage

of smelt and trout from Rotoiti into the Channel. Fingers crossed this will help produce better more consistent angling going forward.

Fish & Game staff will again be out over the summer period undertaking our fishery creel surveys and checking licences so please remember to carry these with you. It's always great to catch up with you all out on the water and see how things are going so we look forward to bumping into you. Surveys provide us with highly valuable information for managing the fishery and we are also able to pass on some tips to assist you in finding what's working and where the fish are being caught.

Two changes were made to the angling regulations for the 2016-17 season. These were:

1. The Awahou Stream (Lake Rotorua) will be closed waters from 1 October 2016. This means no person may fish in the Awahou Stream above the landmark pole where it enters Lake Rotorua. The proposal came from members of Ngati Rangiwewehi who own the land through which the stream runs and the road that anglers access the lake edge. Concerns around thermally stressed trout being targeted, littering, conflict between user groups as well as other factors led to this closure. Anglers will still be able to access the lake edge via Gloucester Road.
2. The winter shoreline fishing area at Lake Okataina is being extended slightly to the right along the main beach (looking out at the lake from the ramp). This is to provide more access for shoreline angling when the lake is at a moderate level.

Trout fishing licences can be purchased from sports shops or from the Fish & Game website [www.fishandgame.org.nz](http://www.fishandgame.org.nz)

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

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# ROTOITI FISHING REPORT

Still the "Jewel in the crown" of the three Trophy lakes Rotoiti has produced consistent numbers for much of the season. Of concern however is the reduced numbers of 3kg fish particularly until late in the season.

Fish and Game are attempting to address this issue with changes in the lakes management strategies including:

- Staggered Liberations Since 2013 in Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec and Jan
- 28,500 Trout Liberated per season since 2012
- Improved returns to release sites where the fish have been released into a stream. It is thought the smell/taste and distinctive chemical make-up of the water is imprinted in released fish prompting a return to spawn. This effect is supported in Fish & Game statistics.

Clearly the eastern area of the lake produced the best catch result, largely due to favourable spawning conditions for both trout and smelt combined with deep structures to "hold" bait fish. Trout will gravitate to these areas and stay longer.

Electronic tag trials conducted by Fish & Game do indicate that fish literally "bounce" around the lake often travelling long distances. Migration is considered "erratic".

The 2014 Okawa Bay trial is an example of this, after extensive lobbying from local fishing identity "Brian Stamp" and I suspect a few cohorts in the Okere Arm. 500 "AM" tagged trout were released from the Yacht

Club in Okawa Bay, clearly an effort to increase numbers in the western portion of the lake. To date some of these fish have been caught as far away as the Vercoes structure.

In addition the Ohau Channel catch results improved from December through to close. This improvement is partly attributed to the hole in the diversion wall discovered during EBOP inspections, allowing smelt and fish to traverse through and into the Ohau Channel.

Harling in the Bay and around the wall had certainly improved in the weeks prior to the close. The summers "weed issue" slightly better too. 2015-16 Creel results conclude at the end of July and where unavailable at the time of writing but will be included in the next addition.

The Rotoiti experience again attracted international media attention and we hosted the team from Australia's channel 7 "Hook, Line, and Sinker" program, they captured some explosive jigging action and returned to Aussie with some great footage. This show will go to air on Sky in December.

Winter Shore-Line fly fishing is still "patchy" but some top condition fish have been caught particularly from Waiiti through to the pipe. Wet line and Boobie techniques favoured.

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## LAKE ROTOITI WOODEN & CLASSIC BOAT ASSOCIATION

The Lake Rotoiti Classic and Wooden Boat Association is in a strong position with many members and a dedicated committee. We had a very successful boat parade in February 2016 with record entries, even though it had to be postponed a day due to the weather. We were unable to go into Okawa Bay because of lake weed issues, and our members worked really hard clearing the weed from Wairau Bay so that we could enjoy a great afternoon there.

The parade this coming February 2017 will be the 20th Parade of Boats on the lake, so I hope that we have a strong showing for this occasion.

The Association had its AGM on Queens Birthday Monday this year at the Pikiaro Rugby League clubrooms and had good attendance. We have just recently had a Mid Winter get-together – again at the Pikiaro Club Rooms. We are wanting to support the community use of this facility.

Coming up we have our annual fishing Challenge at Labour weekend. This event is on both Saturday and Sunday and culminates with a BBQ and Prizegiving.

Our Dinghy day this season will be on 14th January 2017 and we really encourage those with small yachts, dinghys and seagull outboards to attend. Don't worry if you haven't got a seagull outboard – there is a division for you. This is a great day for those that love mucking around in boats.

The parade this year is on the 4th of February 2017 and we are planning a great day to celebrate our 20th anniversary. We are looking at changing the format for the day so that we celebrate the different boats in different ways. We are also planning more on-the-beach activities. The committee is working hard getting our plans together for the day.

On the Sunday after the parade we are planning a float down the Ohau channel and are particularly encouraging members and visitors to float on various small boats down the channel and enjoy the lush vegetation of a tropical rain forest.

### OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS WE ARE PLANNING:

- Long Lazy Lunch on 25th February
- Poker Rally 18th March
- Light Parade 15th April (Easter)

Watch out for our annual Boats calendar. Make sure you order yours soon – note they are really great for those overseas friends and family, to show them what they are missing.

**GRANT COSSEY | COMMODORE**

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Rotorua Police Station	348-0099
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