

Nga mihi o te wa - Season's Greetings

It is a beautiful sunny day, hot and still. The lake is like a mirror, and as I look down my street I can see a bright red sign nailed up beside the boat ramp: Health Warning! And summer has not even arrived yet.

So the fact that Resource Consent has been granted for the Ohau Channel Diversion (it is at appeal stage as I write this) is welcome news indeed. This is a real milestone in the efforts to save Lake Rotoiti and congratulations must be given to Paul Dell and EBOP, RDC, Rotorua Lakes Joint Strategy Committee, Lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti Action Plan Working Party and Te Arawa for all the work they have done to get us to this point. The aerial photo above identifies the proposed placement of the wall.

While recognizing the work done by these organizations, we should also thank all the community based groups involved, especially the Lakes Water Quality Society and also your own LRRRA and its officers both past and present. The huge amount of work done by LWQS and also by LRRRA's Chair, Secretary and Treasurer can not be overstated. Without their efforts we would be nowhere near the stage that we find ourselves at now. While the Diversion has the potential to go a long way to addressing Rotoiti's problems, a lot of work lies ahead to resolve issues facing Lake Rotorua, and we must continue to support, and fight for, its restoration.

It is also pleasing to see that EBOP has started to establish action plans for the other lakes in the area, including the 'Pristine Lakes' of Tarawera, Okataina and Rotoma. It would be a crime to let these lakes deteriorate to a similar state to Rotoiti before paying attention to them.

The pristine lakes are also under threat from aquatic weeds present in Rotorua, Rotoiti and Rotoehu. Even a small strand of hornwort for instance could be disastrous for uninfected lakes. Please check your boats and trailers for weed when moving from lake to lake.

There are many other issues facing our community in the coming year including sewerage, rates reviews and the debate over the establishment of a Community Board. Our Chairperson's Report outlines positions taken on these by your committee. While LRRRA strives for, and is encouraged by gaining, increased input into Council's decisions involving our community, there is still a lot of work to be done. We are always looking for enthusiastic people with an interest in contributing to our community to become involved with the committee. If you feel that describes you, please consider putting yourself forward at our AGM. Paul Dell, Lakes Restoration Coordinator EBOP, is our guest speaker at the AGM and he will address a number of issues facing our community, so we encourage you all to attend.

August saw the resignation of our Secretary Richard Wilson, who has moved from Lake Rotoiti to Rotorua. His enthusiasm and passionate commitment to the Lake community is widely known and his resignation is a real loss to both the committee and the community. We wish him all the best.

We look forward to seeing you all at our AGM on the 8th January, in the meantime,

Meri Kirihimete - Merry Christmas.

Phill Thomass

## **Chairperson's Report**

#### Tena Koutau Katoa

Nga mihi o te wa-Mau Mai haere mai ki tenai to tatau panui whakamutunga mo tenai tau.

Season's greetings, and welcome to the last newsletter of the year, a year that could well be the most important year in Lake Rotoiti's history.

While writing my report, Paul Dell, Lakes Restoration Co-ordinator rang and informed me that the Ohau Channel Diversion Application for Resource Consent had been granted. Once the decision has been delivered to those parties who made submissions to the proposal, they have 15 days in which to lodge an objection. By the time the Newsletter goes to print we will know whether any appeals have been lodged.

There may be people in the Community who doubt the evidence outlined in the Assessment of the Environmental Effects, but as a Committee we agreed the evidence supported the Scientific Research done by Environment Bay of Plenty, David Hamilton and many others.

We agreed that the best shot Lake Rotoiti had for recovery was the construction of the Ohau Channel Diversion. Its aim is to divert the nutrient rich waters of Lake Rotorua away from Lake Rotoiti and down the Kaituna River.

If the Application proceeds without appeal we could see construction start mid 2006.

We were very pleased to hear that Waikato University biologists including David Hamilton will receive \$10 million over ten years from the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology to research Lake Ecosystems and restoration, focusing on the Rotorua Lakes. Great news!

The costs associated with restoring the Lakes are mind boggling. Already Residents are faced with the costs of the proposed Sewerage Schemes, and the proposed targeted rate from Environment Bay of Plenty to fund the majority of the Rotorua Lakes operating expenditure. While we agree we must pay our fair share, we are determined the urban Ratepayer should not pay for the "change of land use fix" that is looming around the next bend!

Representatives from the Association had an opportunity to visit with both the then Minister for the Environment, Marion Hobbs, and Prime Minister Helen Clark at the Ohau Channel diversion site this year. We have had verbal assurances that the restoration of the Rotorua Lakes is of paramount concern to the Government. With the election over we intend to lobby our MP into action on some very serious funding issues.

Anyone who is on the Lake regularly is aware that its health is very fragile. We have had a huge amount of weed growth this spring, due to the improved clarity of the water last summer and in particular a growth of algal slimes and blooms of green "cottonwool" along the Lake edge. The nitrogen feeding these nuisance algal growths usually comes from local sources of nutrients, such as septic tank discharges. We must support the advancement of our Wastewater Treatment programme, in order to reduce the outbreak of these algal blooms.

We have made our usual submissions to the District and Regional Annual Plans. A great deal of time and effort goes into preparing and presenting these submissions. We are pleased that both Councils seem to be making the effort to engage the Community at an earlier stage, rather than at the last minute through the Annual Plan submission process. We are hopeful this will lead to more involvement in the decision process.

Rotorua District Council is developing a number of Strategies, some of which the Association has made submissions or comments to.

The one that is probably of the most interest is the Rotorua Lakes Recreation Strategy. This Strategy has the potential to affect the way our Lakes are managed in the future, with regards to recreational opportunities and restrictions. We, together with the other Lake Ratepayer Groups, have negotiated a place and therefore a voice on the Recreation Forum which will be meeting about twice a year to discuss issues. We believe it is imperative that the Communities interests are represented; after all, it is the Community who are impacted most by what occurs on the Lakes.

The development of Strategies such as the Rotorua Entranceways Strategy and the Open Space Strategy are all good in theory, but no good at all, if we do not have the financial resources to implement them.

While paying a fortune for pretty green signs to adorn our highway corridors, our lake reserves are infested with blackberry and gorse, and a lot of our rest areas in a dilapidated state.

We believe that we can improve our communications with Council by the establishment of a Rotorua Lakes Community Board.

Many of you responded to the mail out asking for support and your signature, in many areas this support reached over 50%. This sent a strong message to us that you think that representation of our Community could be improved.

Unfortunately at the Council Meeting of the 25<sup>th</sup> of October the Rotorua District Council rejected the proposal for the establishment of Rotorua Lakes Community Board, citing as one reason, that they felt that our Community was already well represented by the status quo.

As you are aware we have been working closely with the other Lake Ratepayer groups on a number of issues including the Community Board proposal and the Revenue and Financing Policy Review that Council are currently undertaking.

We regard the review as a matter of significant importance and wish to be involved at the earliest opportunity rather than just at the submission process, when the likelihood of influencing decision is almost nil! We intend to be very pro active regarding this issue and will ensure that Council fulfil their obligation as set out by the Local Government Act.

It certainly heartens me every day I travel into work in Rotorua, to see the physical evidence of the Mourea Okawa Bay Sewerage Scheme and the Eastern Trunk Main. What progress! It represents the first physical step taken in cleaning up our Lakes!

Many Residents in the area just couldn't wait until the diggers chomped up their front lawns -a clear indication that many had waited far too long for the day to finally come! Progress is apparently ahead of schedule, with the

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LAKE ROTOITI RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

to be held at

Pikiao Rugby League Clubrooms, Takinga Street, Mourea 10.00AM SUNDAY 8TH JANUARY 2005

Guest Speaker

## PAUL DELL, LAKES RESTORATION COORDINATOR, EBOP

Light Refreshments available at conclusion of meeting

## NAU MAI HAERE MAI - ALL WELCOME

All enquiries: Sally Brock 3624764

first "flush" on the reticulated scheme planned for March 2006.

Considerable work has been done by the Rotorua District Council in the planning of the Okere Falls Otaramarae sewerage scheme. The preliminary design and updated cost estimates of the proposed scheme are currently being reviewed.

The preliminary application for the Ministry of Health Subsidy has been approved, and the second stage application is being prepared as I write. These will be presented in February 2006.

A summary of the result of the preliminary design and updated cost estimates will be prepared for distribution to the Community later this year. Any further information regarding the proposed scheme should be directed to Greg Manzano RDC.

The proposed On Site Effluent Treatment Plan once adopted by Environment Bay of Plenty, will impact all Lake Residents. See July 2005 newsletter or phone E BOP 0800 368 267.

Quite a few residents have voiced concerns over the impacts of the retrospective Resource Consents for existing jetties and boat sheds that are to be issued by ENV BOP in the near future. Paul Dell will speak on this and other issues at our AGM in January. Basically, the reasons for the consents are that the 1991 Resource Management Act required consents to be issued for all foreshore structures and those over water. At that time the administrative powers and the provisions of the RMA Act lay with RDC. RDC was supposed to issue Resource Consents to all those structures at that time, but this was not done. The administrative powers pass back to ENV BOP on the 1st of July 06. During discussions with RDC the anomaly was discovered. At present under the law, jetty and boat shed owners have no lawful authority to own one. ENV BOP are trying to rectify this by going through a non notified consent process which will give jetty and boat shed owners resource consent for these structures.

We may have a site for a Transfer Station at the Eastern end of The Lake. At present RDC are working on a formal access arrangement with Transit NZ and a Forestry company. Negotiations are in progress with Landowners, formalising a lease agreement. Resource Consent application will occur once these issues are resolved. Watch this space!

We are very pleased to see some work has been carried out at Hinehopu, by RDC and the Department of Conservation. There are plans to seal the end of the road and repair some of the verges.

The Emery Park Playground upgrade has finally been given the AOK. We should see some major work there in the New Year.

The Troutpool Road improvements are scheduled to start in the New Year. RDC and the Association prepared an application to the ENV BOP Environmental Enhancement Fund for additional funding for the project, as RDC had only enough funds to do the car park and toilets. We should hear whether the application has been successful by the end of the year.

It is very heartening to see how well the Ecological Care groups are doing around our Lake. (See report later). Apart from bringing the Community closer together, their work enhances the environment we live in. We commend and congratulate all those who have helped in any way.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Sarah Uhl and her fantastic team in opening the Okere Falls Store! The opening was a grand event, which coincided with the planting of the Kaituna River Outlet lake edge. Over 50 people turned out for the planting and as a reward received great coffee and bratwurst from the Store! The Store is a long awaited asset to us all so please support it; this won't be a great hardship as it is really AWESOME!

Rubbish bags and their disposal continues to be a problem. **PLEASE** ensure that you and or your visitors have the rubbish bags at the kerb side on **Monday mornings**, this includes public holidays (excludes Christmas Day). This problem is especially bad during the Festive Season.

Our AGM is in January and we look forward to your attendance. Paul Dell, Lakes Restoration Coordinator ENV BOP, has kindly agreed to speak on a number of issues of great concern to most of us who live or holiday at the Lake.

On a serious note, we would like you to consider putting your name forward for nomination to the Committee. This year we lost our very hard working and dedicated Secretary Richard Wilson. He is certainly a hard act to follow, but we desperately need a Secretary.

Your Committee has only so much energy! If you want the Association to continue as the strong one it is, we WILL need more help. If you can help in any way and are happy to put your name forward please phone Sally 3624764 or Brentleigh 3624700.

I wish you a safe and happy festive season.

Ko te tumanako kia koa kia pai to koutou hararei mo te kirihimete.

No reira, tena koutou, tena koutou, tena tatou katoa.

Sally Brock



## **STOP THE SPREAD**

Protect our waters from aquatic hitchhikers
Remove all waterweed from boats and recreational equipment when leaving waterways

All of Rotorua's lakes are currently free of pest fish, like koi carp and catfish. Some lakes are free of all or several species of aquatic weeds. If pest fish or new weeds establish in the Rotorua lakes, they are likely to degrade water quality, become a nuisance to lake users, and escalate the decline in native aquatic plant communities.

Your boat can bring new aquatic pests into a lake. A single fragment of weed can transfer the eggs of pest fish or cause a new infestation of aquatic weeds.

Skippers must inspect their boats, including propellers anchor chains and trailers, when leaving a lake and before entering a new lake. Please remove all weeds, flush out jet units, and wash your boat down if necessary.

You have an important role to play in protecting the Rotorua lakes



## **Tribute to Richard Wilson**

It was with deep regret that the Committee accepted Richard's resignation as Secretary of the Association this year.

Richard has sold his family home at Otaramarae, and has moved into Rotorua.

I first meet Richard at the AGM of the Lakes Water Quality Society at the Taheke Marae.

It was the year when Lake Rotoiti suffered its first whole Lake algal bloom, and there was a huge outpouring of anger among our Community. A great many dignitaries were present at the meeting, including the then Mayor Grahame Hall.

I was full of admiration for this very out spoken and passionate man, who didn't give a toss about what people thought. He spoke his mind and the truth because he was so very committed to bringing the Lakes dire water quality issues into the public arena.

He and I become a sort of Comrades in Arms as we embarked in a very public and often painful campaign in bringing Lake Rotoiti's water quality issues to the attention of the media locally and nationally.

Richard had so much local and historical knowledge, and he was passionate about the issues. I was relatively new to the area as a Resident, but was committed to getting action to help our Lake, and wasn't scared in joining him in a public show down.

Many disapproved of the tactics, and together we endured a lot of criticism.

I was, and still am, full of admiration for anyone who is prepared to speak their mind and stand up to the challenge. No one could doubt that Richard is that sort of person.

Those frenzied times are almost a distant memory now, as we have just heard the Resource Consent Application for the Ohau Channel Diversion.

Huge progress made in such a short space of time.

Richard has worked hard not only for the Lakes health but also for the issues of Residents and Ratepayers. He has fought many battles, attended many meetings, made countless phone calls, and arranged numerous meetings all for our benefit.

I honestly don't know what I would have done without him in my capacity as Chairperson, especially in my first year, where I was well and truly out of my comfort zone.

Richard, I could go on and on.

Those who know you appreciate your dedication and hard work over the years. You are a great loss to our Community.

On behalf of all the Residents and Ratepayers of Lake Rotoiti, I thank you and wish you well.

Sally Brock

## **West Rotoiti Volunteer Fire Unit**

This year has been relatively quiet as far as call-outs are concerned although our pagers seem to be going off a little more regularly as we approach Christmas.

It is pleasing to note we have been called out to extinguish fewer rubbish fires during the summer months. Residents are obviously becoming more aware of their obligations during the restricted and total fire ban periods.

We have still been occupied with on-going training as well as other community activities. Our main project this year has been the completion of the installation of 130 smoke detectors in homes throughout the district.

In July we mourned the passing of our patron Theo deLange. Theo was the instigator in setting up the Fire Unit and provided the first fire truck.

His contribution to the unit was recognised at the AGM when Theo's wife Marjorie unveiled both a commemorative plaque in his honour as well as new personalised plates on the fire truck bearing Theo's nick name.

The Fire Unit is currently served by a keen group of very capable fire fighters who are all working hard to increase their training levels as the Rural Fire Service keeps shifting the goal posts as regards to unit standard requirements.

Any queries regarding membership of the unit should be directed to our Training Officer Aaron Martin on 3624 752

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable summer. Kevin Jensen Chairman

# Hinehopu Transfer Station & Hinehopu/Gisborne Pt Rubbish Collection

The Rubbish Skip sites at Hinehopu and Rotoma have been closed recently. RDC had been negotiating with Transit New Zealand to establish a Transfer Station on the Hinehopu site, but ultimately Transit rejected the proposal on traffic safety grounds.

RDC is now in negotiations with interested parties to establish a Transfer Station near the Eastern end of the lake, we hope that there will be an announcement on this early in the new year. In the meantime there is the Okere Transfer Station located at Okere Rd (just south of SH33) and the Rotorua Landfill located off Atiamuri Highway SH30 1.6km from Waipa Junction. Details of opening hours can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

Rubbish Collection day for Gisborne Pt through to Hinehopu is Monday mornings (as it is around the rest of the lake). The Monday collection includes Statutory Holdidays as well. Rubbish will only be collected if in official council (brown paper) bags which you can purchase at all the supermarkets in Rotorua.

For everyone holidaying at Rotoiti this summer please make sure you have plenty of these bags!

Rubbish is an ongoing problem at the Eastern end of the lake, and now with no skips you only have the Monday morning collection to remove your rubbish unless you take it to the Okere Transfer Station or Rotorua Landfill.



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## **HONEYMOON BAY**

## By Caroline Main

My daily job at Rotoiti is sweeping the back yard; it is a gritty old thing and has to be done everyday, otherwise it looks awful. I had just finished and my friend Jill walked round the side of the house. She had paddled over the bay in her kayak called Kuku to see if I would be allowed to go to a picnic with her family to Honeymoon Bay.

Now it is only two days till the end of the holidays and I know there are lots of jobs that Mum and Dad want us kids to help with before we go home and I was sure Mum would say no, but with a bit of nagging she said yes I could go if I promised to help with all the jobs tomorrow. It didn't take me very long to find my togs and towel and topee hat, we all had topee hats this summer cos we'd read about them in the Flame Trees of Thika at school. I then got into my canoe and paddled over to the M's place.

Mr M had a pinnace that could seat lots of people and it had a deck on the front that Jill and I liked to lie on and watch the water go by but Mrs M was very fair and made us share it with all the other kids. It had a Scottatwater outboard on it and it goes very fast and Chris, Jill's brother, told me it is the only one in New Zealand cos Mr M came from Canada and he was able to bring it into New Zealand. I don't know whether that is really true. This is not the first time I've been on a picnic with the M's and Mrs M always takes her fishing rod and lots of books. Mr M has books too. Chris has a friend called Bert with him and Jid, his younger sister, has a friend called Heidi. Heidi is a very quiet girl who has come to live in New Zealand from Germany. She has a tattoo number on her

arm which she said she got in a camp in Germany. She doesn't talk very much about her life in Germany except that her father is dead.

Going down to the bay Jill and I had the deck, the girls the side seats, but they could put their feet up and lean on cushions. Mrs M sat in the middle and the boys sat at the back with Mr M so they could talk about engines. I thought that would be a bit dull. I don't know how long it takes to get to Honeymoon Bay, and it is even better that if when we get there, there are no other boats and this time we were lucky. But we are not allowed to go swimming straight away cos Mrs M likes to try and catch a trout for lunch. So we sat on the sand and watch Mrs M walk into the water in her sandshoes and start casting. I wonder why she wore sandshoes cos sand doesn't hurt you. We always have a guessing game as to how many casts it will take her to catch a trout, but no one ever got it right. I really like watching Mrs M land a trout and she really lets the trout play. She told me the harder a trout fights the line the brighter the rainbow gets and it is true. But sometimes I feel a bit sorry for the trout when I know it's going to be cooked on a fire if it loses the fight. If Mrs M doesn't catch a trout then we have baked bean sandwiches and trout is far nicer, but she usually did. Mr M cleaned the trout and Jill and I pick mint to put inside it and wrap it in wet newspaper. Then it is wood gathering time. There are lots of puriri trees round the bay so wood is not hard to find, Jid and Heidi get the kindling, Jill and I get the bigger wood, Chris and Bert the two side logs. Mr M is a wizard at building fires but he says you have to let it burn low and get lots of coals before you put the trout on so we have plenty of time for a swim or a walk before lunch. Champagne Bay next door is a good walk



with a wide beach, and at the end there is a little lake. I don't know if it has a name or who owns it, but on it is a tin canoe called Tippy Tin and it is tippy. We got very wet and had to leave our shorts on a blackberry bush to dry but the bush had plenty of big juicy blackberries so we had fun eating them.

By then our tummies were telling us the trout must be cooked so we walked back and it was, pink and juicy. We all buttered two pieces of bread and put the trout in the middle, but we have to wait till it had cooled a bit. There is no better picnic than brown bread and butter and trout but I was a bit frightened I might have eaten too many blackberries and have no room for trout, but I hadn't.

After lunch we all helped clean up and put everything back into boxes and then we could all go swimming. Mrs M always stayed by the fire reading to make sure it was safe. There are beautiful pohutukawa trees leaning out over the water and we have great fun diving or jumping off them into the deep water and there are some lower branches for Heidi and Jid to play on and the water is not so deep. Swimming round the bush edge of the bay you find lots of treasures like duck nests, the little bush orchids and lots of other lovely mosses and things that only grow near water. We asked the boys if they would like to swim with us and see all these things but they think we're a bit sissy.

It really is a bit stupid of them cos if you sit on the rocks in the next tiny bay and are very still you can see the trout swimming round in the water below.

As we swam back from the rocks another boat came into the bay and a man tried to catch a trout like Mrs M but I think we may have frightened all the trout away. We asked him would he like us to get out of the water but he said "no it was OK" so praps he doesn't know about still water, Mrs M says it has to be still.

Just below the bush at Champagne Bay there are lots of wild strawberries, not those horrible round red balls but red strawberries only smaller. Jill showed me how to find them and we got lots but we had to share them with the other kid's cos they don't know where to look for them. Heidi doesn't like strawberries; they give her a rash, poor thing.

When Mr M whistled it meant one more swim then home, so we made the most of it.

We got the boys to throw the life ring as far out into the water as they could and then we had a dive each to see if we could come up in the ring. The boys are good at throwing but they are no good at finding cos Jill and I beat them every time. Mr M calls us his pet water rats.

Then it was time to put all the cushions, boxes and books back into the boat and head for home. I don't know what the time is but some time in the afternoon. A sea breeze can get up and the lake gets quite rough and cold and Mr M said he has a big responsibility. We were told to put our jerseys on and sit in the bottom of the boat. I'm glad there were cushions. When we got home I said goodbye to Mr and Mrs M and thanked them for taking me and gave Jill a big hug goodbye. Mr and Mrs M said they would look forward to seeing me next holidays. Paddling home and it seemed so slow after the outboard, I thought of all the jobs to be done tomorrow, but most of all, what a happy place Honeymoon Bay is.

## **Hongi's Track**



The tract of bush lying between Rotoiti and Rotoehu bordering SH30 and generally referred to as Hongi's Track, is also known as Te Tahuna. Tradition claims its original (and correct) name is Omatatahuna. Others spoke of this bush as Wharepakira-o-Ngati Hinehinu and Te Whakamaru-ra-o-Hinehopu.

The track, now followed by the highway was said to be Te Ara-o-Hinehopu because it was used often by the ancestress Hinehopu. She travelled regularly between her two homes, one at each end of the track. It was also halfway along this track that she met her future husband Pikiao II; the precise spot is marked by Te Rakau-tipua-a Hinehopu (Hinehopu's magic tree). Hinehopu planted the tree as a sapling to mark the spot. The tree is today more generally spoken of as the Wishing Tree. Many fanciful tales have been introduced to account for the tree and its name.

It was over this same track that Hongi Hika and his Ngapuhi army hauled their canoes in order to attack Mokoia Island at Rotorua. Much later, and probably as a result of a blossoming tourist industry, the roadway became known as Hongi's Track.

A fenced memorial stone on the edge of the road and close to the Taupo Stream (within Te Tahuna) marks the site where the chief Te Amotu Takaanewa was killed by a party of Hongi's warriors. The generally repeated story is that Takaanewa was travelling from Rotoehu to Te Rotoiti with his family when he was met by a party of Ngapuhi returning after their raid on Mokoia Island. Takaanewa fearlessly remained facing the enemy alone, enabling his family to escape into the bush before he was subdued and killed.

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## **Lakes Update from EBOP**

## **Ohau Diversion Consent**

On 1 November 2005 Environment Bay of Plenty and Rotorua District Council released the joint hearing decision giving consent to construct the Ohau Diversion Structure in Lake Rotoiti.

The consent conditions are now being closely reviewed by the project team. Any appeals on the consent would need to be lodged by about 25 November 2005.

The project team is currently reviewing the timeline to prepare the necessary design plans and contract documents, seek and consider tenders and undertake construction.

Overall timing will be dependent on whether or not any appeals are lodged. To minimise delays the various monitoring requirements in the consent have already be actioned

## **Lakes Structures**

People living around all the Lakes including Lake Rotoiti who have an interest in an existing Lake Structure (jetty, boatshed, ramp, etc) will have received a letter outlining the need to have their previously issued annual permit replaced by a resource consent under the RMA. Although this issue has only recently come to light the reality is that since October 1991 when the Resource Management Act came into force all structures should have been authorised by a consent. There are also occupation issues involving Land Information New Zealand (LINZ), Department of Conservation (DoC) and Rotorua District Council.

To streamline the required consenting procedure all parties involved have been working together and an application pack will be circulated for the consenting of these structures towards the end of this year. To trial the system a lake with few structures will be targeted first. It is expected that Lake Rotoiti will be targeted in 2006.

In the meantime if you have any queries please contact Sherryn Owen at Rotorua District Council.

#### Lake Weed Spraying

Lake weed spraying is undertaken by Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) on a number of the Rotorua Lakes. Guidance on what needs spraying comes from consultation with Council and community groups and field inspection.

Lagarosiphon and Egeria will be the main weeds that are targeted in the spraying programme which are usually undertaken in November 2005. The Rotorua firm Aqua-Ag Limited will be undertaking the applications, hopefully commencing on Monday 7 November 2005. Approximately 8 hectares will be sprayed on Lake Rotoiti including a 5 hectare area off Gisborne Point, the boat ramp area at Otaramarae, and small infestations at other bays or jetty locations.

Environment Bay of Plenty is keen to have the boat ramps free of weed to minimise the risk of weed transfer.

Environment Bay of Plenty is once again coordinating an Aquatic Pest Summer Awareness Programme, including radio and newspaper advertising, summer students interviewing lake users, extra signage, posters and leaflet distribution and sponsorship of fishing competitions. Fish and Game, Department of Conservation and Rotorua District Council assist with this awareness activity.



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## **Lakes Water Quality Society News**

We all knew that getting the lakes fixed would be a big job. But three or four years ago when we were persuading the authorities to start action, few of us in Lakes Water Quality Society realised just how much detailed work would be needed for years.

LWQS works on behalf of all the lakes, but has put special effort into Rotoiti as the lake most at risk of more sharp deterioration in water quality.

A big upcoming event is our next Symposium Rotorua Lakes 2006 Wonderful Lakes—what value?—who pays? It will be held on 6 & 7 March at the Park Heritage in Rotorua. Registration forms will be out soon. All are welcome to register and come along. This is a vital event since both Environment BOP and the Government will be making decisions about the sharing of the costs of fixing the lakes.

LWQS supported the diversion of the Ohau Channel at the consent hearings, and looks forward to final consent and construction as soon as possible. At the same time we recognise that the diversion is not a 'silver bullet' which will solve all the problems of Lake Rotoiti. Thus we support the ongoing investigations by Environment BOP into possible supplementary measures. These include flocculation to take phosphorus out of the water, oxygenation, dredging, and in the longer term changes in land use and management.

The central foci of LWQS this year have been:

- 1. Funding: seeking a fair allocation of costs, especially beyond the district.
  - 2. Project management
  - 3. Getting work started on the pristine lakes.

In working towards these objectives LWQS has been involved in:

- · Action Plan working and focus groups, especially for Rotorua/Rotoiti and Okareka. These include those on land-use and stormwater.
- · Membership of the Rotorua Lakes and Land Trust. This provides interaction with farmers and Maori land-owners on lakes issues and economic land use. The objective is: pure lakes, profitable farms, prosperous communities.
- · Submissions supporting a renewed consent for weed-spraying in the lakes (to the limited extent that is currently required).
- We have been in close contact with Environment BOP and RDC staff on issues affecting the lakes generally.

The Proceedings of the last Symposium Restoring Lake Health - Nutrient Targets and Cyanobacteria are now available.

The AGM of Lakes Water Quality Society will be held as usual on Auckland Anniversary Day, Monday 30 January.

LWQS thanks LRRRA for the close co-operation during the year, and the way in which we have been able to complement each others' efforts and avoid duplication. We also record our appreciation to Environment BOP and RDC for their vigorous approach to fixing the lakes.

Ian McLean,

Chair.

LWQS.

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## From Your MP . . .

Many thanks for asking me to contribute to your newsletter. It will only be through open communication that all sides, around this complex and multi faceted issue, of improving the lakes water quality will actually happen.

I would like to thank those advocates in your Association who waited patiently to meet and hear the Minister of the Environment, Minister of Local Government and the Prime Minister during the election campaign. This issue is bigger than party politics and those who attended realised that.

It was hugely significant that the Prime Minister announced the Local Government Policy on the shores of Lake Rotoiti in the last week of a torrid election campaign. I recommended, to the Prime Minister, that she needed to come to the people and hear the story.

It is only with an approach, that works in partnership with Local Authorities and Regional Councils, will we ever get on top of environmental issues as large as we are facing in Rotorua and other areas like the Marlborough Sounds with rock snot.

Even though it was a bleak day it was very clear that community groups, such as yours and the Combined Ratepayer Association, have a very valuable role in acting as an advocate and a watchdog of the environment we love and are improving for the next generation.

I also met with the then current Environment Minister, Marian Hobbs, at the District Council. Here we heard about the increase in expenditure for the physical works proposed at the Ohau Channel and the need for government to consider a contribution toward the long-term costs. Residents should not to be concerned over Hon Marian Hobbs' resignation. The incoming Minister, Hon David Benson-Pope, will be receiving briefing papers on national issues of significance.

The Rotorua Lakes paper, to be submitted by the Lakes Project team by March next year, will also be carried through. The Ministry for the Environment has a desk officer, Tim Bennetts, who is in charge of the Lakes Restoration Project and he will be responsible to oversee this time frame. I will ensure this step occurs to meet the next budget deadline.

I note that the tension with rate setting has begun and these debates are crucial to the next step. Government has to be confident that there is a fair and reasonable contribution from urban and rural ratepayers as both users and beneficiaries of the Lakes. It will be a challenge to convince some in town that they too are responsible to contribute to mitigation and restoration. We will be asked to fund the gap and the debate with a major user group approach will be to agree on the size of that contribution. Rotorua has achieved this in another major project – the roading upgrades in the region. The same approach will be used to review the Lakes funding bid and will involve the Ministry for the Environment, Agriculture and Treasury. I am heartened by this approach, as are both Councils in this case.

I do hope you all have a happy Christmas and enjoy the Lakes safely this summer.

Steve Chadwick.

## Community Boards – The Way Forward

In our July Newsletter, we backgrounded community boards, what they are, what their advantages are, who is elected to them, what they cost to run, etc.

Since that time 646 electors, or over 25% of the 2528 electors in the Rotorua Lakes district signed a proposal that an area including Lakes Okareka, Tarawera, Rotoma, Rotoehu, Rotoiti and a small part of the eastern shore of Lake Rotorua be constituted a community in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002. It is interesting to note that in some areas of the proposed district, over 50% of the electors gave their written support for the proposal, a result that we believe signals significant dissatisfaction with the existing ward system and the ability for residents to communicate with their Council.

On the 19th September this year, this proposal was formally delivered to the Chief Executive of the Rotorua District Council for Council's consideration and decision. Regrettably, Council saw fit to reject the proposal at their meeting on the 25th October.

The main reasons for rejecting the proposal were:

- It was felt the proposed area was not a distinct community of interest.
- · It was believed to date there had been good governance and representation for residents.
- The costs associated with having a Community Board had not been discussed or considered by the residents.
- The 2006 representation review provided the opportunity for better representation options to be considered.

The Act provides for this decision to be appealed by any signatory to the proposal, and we are aware that 7 signatories have filed an appeal of the Council's decision with the Local Government Commission.

If you have provided a valid signature in favour of the proposal, you may also lodge an appeal. Please contact the Association for details.

We would imagine these appeals will be heard sometime in the New Year.

- Brentleigh Bond

# PROGRESS REPORT ON THE OKERE FALLS/OTARAMARE SEWERAGE SCHEME

Following on from the last progress report, considerable work has been undertaken on the planning of the proposed sewerage scheme.

a) Preliminary Design

Preliminary design and updated cost estimates of the proposed reticulation system have been completed and are currently being reviewed.

b) Ministry of Health Subsidy

The Preliminary application for subsidy has been approved in the July 2005 round of application.

The second stage application (provisional) is being prepared for submission to the February 2006 round of application.

A summary of the result of the preliminary design and updated cost estimates will be prepared for distribution to the community. This will be the basis of further consultation envisaged in the last week of November.

If you need further information regarding the proposed sewerage scheme, please contact Greg Manzano at 07 348 4199.

## Rural Residential Rates up by \$700 next year?

Yes, this will be the estimated average increase for lakeside residents next year if Rotorua District Council increases the rural residential rating differential from the present 70% to 100%, all other things being equal.

This follows a 24% increase in the 2004/5 rates largely as a result of a small increase in the rating differential, and will be on top of EBOP's recently proposed additional \$80.00 per rateable property for lakes restoration. And yes, costs for wastewater (sewerage) schemes or high-tech septic systems, and their attendant operating costs, are additional and are coming to all rural lakeside properties over the next 5 years.

In July this year yet another rating review was introduced to Council as part of the 2006-2016 Ten Year Plan. This review will consider various changes including a change from land value to capital value based rating. Indications are that the existing 70% rural residential differential will also be considered as part of that change.

It is not yet known who the big winners will be should these proposals be adopted and, with the QV property re-valuations due any time soon, calculations can be expected to be complex. One thing, however, is certain, and that is that any attempt to further increase the rural residential rating differential will be vigorously opposed by all rural lakeside ratepayers.

Council advise they will be adopting a realistic consultation program and your Committee will be working hard on your behalf throughout the next few months to ensure a realistic and affordable rating regime will result.

This is one of the most important issues the various lakes ratepayer associations will face over the next few months and there may well be a time next year when your physical support will be needed.

In the meantime, your Committee would welcome constructive input from members and particularly from anyone who has some background or experience with these rating issues.

If you can help, please contact us by email at te-pohutukawa@paradise.net.nz or grahamb@clear.net.nz , or phone (07) 362 4764 or (07) 362 4700, or fax (07) 362 4701, or post to Lake Rotoiti Ratepayers & Residents Assn., Postal Delivery Centre, Mourea, Rotorua.

- Brentleigh Bond

## **Mayor's Report**

Ten members of Rotorua District Council staff and officials made a 2½ hour presentation to Environment BOP. This presentation is to invite EBOP to be a funding partner in the expansion and development of the Rotorua Regional Airport to become trans-Tasman capable. The presentation was well received and now we are in the process of providing more information through a "Due Diligence" process.

Can I congratulate all councillors on achieving an important milestone - one full year in office. It is not easy being a public figure as was shown by the recent general election results. We have had some very good debates and issues to resolve in that 12 months. Over the next two years the workload of councillors will increase as the Rotorua community and central government place more demands on our time, energy and skills to tackle the tough issues. We are here to serve our entire community.

The NRB Communitrak Survey published in June 2005 said that "the performance of the mayor and councillors over the past year has been rated 3% better than the performance in the previous 12 months, and Rotorua residents rated their performance slightly above their peer group average and above the national average". A very good result.

Since my last report I have attended the following functions in my mayoral capacity.

- Attended 4 Consultation meetings on Maori Wards
- Hosted and gave a presentation on RDC to Otonga and Glenholme School students.
- Hosted a reception for the BOP Steamers & North Harbour
- Hosted a reception promoting Deaf Awareness Week
- Attended the gifted kids programme "Survival Museum" Exhibition Opening
- Attended the Volunteer Coach of the Year Awards
- Mayoral Reception for the Maori Women's Welfare League Conference & Maori Queen
- Attended the Rotorua Business Awards Gala Presentation
- Hosted the Rotorua Business Awards Presentation and Sponsors Dinner
- Attended the RSA Women's 61st Birthday celebrations
- Hosted the Annual Garden Bus Tour and Afternoon Tea for the Elderly in Galleria
- Opened the NZ Cold Storage Conference @ Rydges
- Welcomed delegates to the Hospitality Assn of NZ Conference @ Convention Centre
- Attended the launch of Lakeside 2006 @ Millennium
- Hosted the Awards for Respect ceremony promoting Mental Health Awareness Week
- Opened the National Credit & Finance Institutes Conference
- Met with the NZ Olympic Committee for Queen's Baton Relay January 2006
- Attended the 'Cleaner Production' celebrations
- Attended the Lion Nathan Awards for Excellence @ HANZ Conference
- Attended a BOP Mayors/CEOs meeting
- Celebrated St Chad's 80th Birthday & Opening of New Premises on Devon Street
- Attended the Fire Service Honours Evening
- Hosted the Mayoral Concert for the Elderly held at the Convention Centre
- Opened the International Infrastructure Management
  Summit
- Welcomed Beijing Officials at the Opera Exhibition held in the Museum
- Hosted a Citizenship Ceremony
- Attended the Netball BOP Awards evening
- Presented Awards for Plunket Kids Safe programme
- Hosted Mr Tachikawa, President of Tachikawa Wood Products

Mayor Kevin Winters.

## **Councillor's Reports**

## Charles Sturt

Firstly can I congratulate the team headed by Sally, ably assisted by Brentleigh and many others who ensure that issues facing the northernmost ratepayers are kept on the Council's agenda. I must pay tribute to Richard who has worked tirelessly for all in the Rotoiti Area for many years. Happy retirement.

#### **Lakes Water**

As a member of the Working Party involving Te Arawa and EBOP representatives, and serving alongside Mayor Winters as part of the RDC contingent I, like many of you, get very frustrated that issues take an age to surface. Ian McLean and Co. are definitely at the forefront and ensure matters are attended to.

With the Resource Consent granted, steady progress can be made on constructing the (*McLean Kilt* as I have heard it called) diversion. EBOP's development of their solution for locking up the Phosphates in the sediment with Phoslock is the next task. However Prof Hamilton has gone a long way to ensure lay people can understand the science associated with the issues of nutrient release in all our Lakes. All this leads me to the conclusion we are getting good advice.

Mayor Winters and Chairman Cronin will meet with new Environment Minister Benson-Pope and the new Local Government Minister. Pleased to hear that local MP Stevie Chadwick has been promoted to Chair the Local Government/Environment Select Committee in Parliament. I am sure she will ensure that the commitments given to you and the Rotorua people prior to the Election by PM Helen Clark and the offer to form a Joint Officials Group will bear fruit. We have a strong commitment from EBOP to implement land use changes, and by the Rotorua District Council to sewer lake side settlements progressively over the next 10 years.

However the economic impact on Rotorua ratepayers is going to be profound over the next few years and our partners on the Joint Committee are mindful. I have asked that special consideration be given to the lake side people so that far greater subsidies are forthcoming from Govt. Their recent announcement of subsidy levels up to 90%

of the capital cost is in the right direction.

## **Community Boards**

Council recently rejected the call from a group wanting to establish the Combined Lakes Community Board. We have preferred that this matter be included in a comprehensive review of the District Representation in March 2006.

A community of interest must be clearly defined in any proposal and the fact that a targeted rate for the areas covered by a Community Board are issues needing consideration also. I must say that there is sufficient support around the current Council table to do away with the Current Ward system and replace the Wards with one district wide Ward, so that all electors can elect the 12 Councillors.

I fear the call for Community Boards will come from as far afield as Reporoa, Kaharoa/Hamurana, Ngongotaha and the Lakes in the North Ward. Those that have indicated their preference for Community Boards want to retain a direct link with their Council and Councillors and see Community Boards providing a strong link.

## Council, 12 months on.

Under new Mayor Kevin Winters there is definitely a major change of style in leadership. I see a more inclusive, less confrontational and more respectful team. The fact that the media tries to dredge up any controversy it can in order to get a story is indicative of the style referred to. Mayor Winters is a doer rather than a PR person forever on the front page. He works away behind the scene and is proving effective also. He has a very experienced team of Chairpeople including Crs. Searancke, Waaka, Maxwell and myself to support him.

It has been pleasing to see how Crs Kenny and Judd have grasped their responsibilities with both hands. Crs Gould and Te Kowhai are growing into the job well.

Cr McVicker, for me, has been very impressive with his wit and dedication to providing a business focus on matters raised at the table. He is intelligent but don't tell him (tongue in cheek), and like Cr Kenny makes a valued contribution during tough debates. You're in good hands.

## The Lake Rotoiti Fishery 2005-06

The 2005-06 trout fishing season got under way on October 1 and Fish & Game staff were out in force interviewing anglers on the lakes in the region. Lake Rotoiti was the top performing lake of the day as predicted, with preliminary results showing anglers weighing in better fish than have been seen for many years. Fish & Game staff and helpers interviewed 305 anglers and measured and weighed 250 fish from Rotoiti on Opening Day. The catch rates on the day seemed to be a little better than last year with anglers catching and keeping more fish on average for the amount of effort they put in.

The 2-year-old trout caught from Rotoiti this year were larger than they have been since the 1996 opening, so this bodes very well for the rest of the season. Trout size in Rotoiti had declined over the 1994 to 2002 period but has increased considerably again over the 2003-04 and 2004-05 seasons. This increase has occurred at a time when the number of fish liberated into the lake has also doubled, with the 2001 to 2004 liberations totalling around 25,000 fish each year. It appears that the Lake Rotoiti fishery is doing very well at the current time and Fish & Game would encourage anglers to get out there and make the most of the current conditions.

The Ohau Channel also fished very well with some excellent fish being taken, including local angler David Bach catching not one but two brown trout over 10 lb, the biggest a staggering 16 lb (7.16 kg). Environment Bay of Plenty are funding a comprehensive survey of this fishery this year and the early results are showing anglers take some spectacular fish from the channel each spring. More than 200 trout have been measured and over 10% of the fish caught so far have exceeded 4kg and three of these exceeded 7kg. This fishery is proving to warrant the concerns Fish & Game have expressed about the possible impacts the Ohau Diversion might have on the channel and lake fisheries.

The coming months should be an exciting time for Rotoiti anglers and those fishing the Channel. The fish are looking better than they have for many years and there should be plenty of them. It is difficult to predict what the summer water quality will bring, however, so make the most of the early season. Get out there and enjoy it!

## **Councillor's Reports**

## Russell Judd

Thank you for this opportunity to share some thoughts regarding what councillor life is like. Like most I had my fair share of preconceived ideas on what the role would be like. Before the election in 2004 I wrote a letter to myself (and friends, family, Hannahs Bay Ratepayers) with what I was thinking at the time regarding how I felt about issues, so that I could look back on myself and how I may have changed. I can quite confidently say that my philosophies on how things should be done and views on issues have not changed significantly.

The first thing you notice as a new councillor must be all the reading. I see it as my job to do all the reading on behalf of ratepayers because there is so much information to chew over. I regularly come across points I hadn't previously considered in my preconceptions, and it is this process, combined with rigorous debate with fellow councillors that I feel privileged to be part of.

The second thing you realize is that you don't do it for the money, despite what many would say. Council takes up 2 – 3 days a week depending on how involved you want to get. Official meetings and functions are scattered across the week, including weekends, and it is this broken nature that makes it impossible to carry out a normal 9-5, 40 hour week. It's public knowledge that I get about \$33 000 before tax for this. When I first got on council I had to leave my old job and I effectively took a 50% pay cut. I now pick up occasional work with forestry companies and use my time to work on my energy business. I enjoy council because of the people and groups I get to interact with, and feeling like I can make a difference.

However, the biggest question you probably all wonder is have I done anything. I arrived on four big issues – recycling, land use/water quality, forestry and the airport. Of course these are all work in progress. There is now someone representing the significant group of ratepayers (including Hannahs Bay, farmers, foresters, manufactures, etc) who oppose paying (monetarily, noise, etc) for the

airport extension (international capable). Cr. Searancke always grumbled, but when I arrived making lots of noise, she became more active in opposing too. There are now 3 to 4 councillors who have doubts. The direction is now more towards private contributions rather than ratepayers pockets, and seeing property rights fully considered.

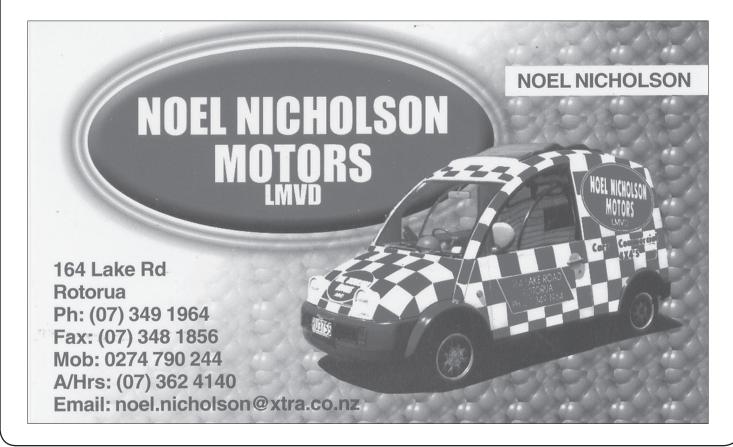
Before I came to council there was virtually no official finger pointing at farmers for their land use effects, other than studies being done and several EBOP/RDC staff making noises. I definitely don't see it as my doing (Taupo, staff, etc more significant), but now there is significant emphasis on farming practices, bad practice prosecutions, and farmers don't like me much.

I have also made a name for myself as the "forestry guy" amongst councillors and point out regularly that forestry is still the biggest contributor to Rotorua's economy (at today's log prices and downturn). Councillors now regularly include it when reciting lists of industries in Rotorua (sometimes even before tourism).

Recycling however has been a real let down for me. I just can't seem to get the establishment to recognize the non monetary benefits of kerb side systems, rather than the inconvenience and cost of taking recyclables down to the in-city centre. My plan is to randomly door knock 100+homes across Rotorua early next year and ask the key questions that I feel my opposition are getting wrong.

So to sum up it is hard to know what effect I have, but I am happy with how things have changed and are changing. I really enjoy the people and councillors (even though we have hearty debates on some issues). I think the Mayor is doing a great job (even though we disagree on heaps), as his personality allows democracy to thrive, and councillors are working well together. Finally, can I note that LRRRA are by far the most vocal and energetic ratepayer group in Rotorua and your team are a credit to you.

Have a happy festive season and I look forward to working with you next year.



## **Ecological Care Group Report**

It has been a busy year with a number of projects happening around the Lake.

We have now completed planting at Te Akau Road

and they are looking fantastic.

The initial planting done just over 2 years ago have rocketed ahead, and are now requiring very little maintenance. This is mainly due to the mulch that has been applied around the plants over the summer months, which keeps weeds at bay and moisture in at the root base.

This winter we completed the planting on the Urupa side of the road, and applied some more mulch.

An ongoing regime of weed control is required until canopy cover is achieved, when the reduction of light and size of the plants prevents vigorous weed growth.

We have had a very enthusiastic group of people involved at our working bees and planting sessions, at Te Akau Road all volunteers encouraged by the positive impact to the entrance to our road.

The Te Akau Scenic Reserve has had a number of working bees, mainly to control weed growth. It has been transformed however just by the regular weed control and mowing of the grassy area underneath the pylons.

We had a major planting session at the Kaituna Lake edge at the beginning of August. What an event that was! We managed to coincide our planting day with the opening of the new Okere Falls Store.

About 50 people turned up to plant over 1000 plants! It took virtually no time at all!

The store provided fresh coffee and bratwurst, welcome refreshment after the digging!

It certainly looks great now as the plants are beginning their spring growth, especially after those few years when there was nothing but weeds and, subsequent to spraying, bare earth!

Our new major project is Whangamoa Point Restoration, which is a Department of Conservation managed Reserve just past the "narrows" opposite Tumoana Point.

The whole Reserve is infested with gorse, which requires cutting and removing and subsequent weed control for a couple of years before restoration planting can begin. We had our first working bee at the Point in October. About 18 people turned up in grotty weather, and managed to clear about one third of the point! It has made a huge difference, just having the gorse removed.

The Okawa Bay Care Group has been applying a weed control regime to the plants that were planted last year. A few have suffered damage by rabbits, geese and swans! But most are coming along nicely.

Plants lost over the summer period will be replaced next winter

The Te Arero Bay project seems to be finally under way. There have been some delays with landowner negotiation and red tape!

We hope to report major progress next newsletter! We are regularly doing beach clean ups which are a great social event, when we go out and about in our boats, have a picnic and remove weeds and rubbish from our lovely beaches.

If you want to be involved in any of the above projects, or want to be contacted when these events are about to happen, please ring me 3624764 and register your name for contact.

- Sally Brock

## **OKERE FALLS STORE REOPENS**

Sarah Uhl's patience, determination and persistence finally paid off when a totally re vamped Okere Falls Store opened in August after what must have seemed a long wait.

Sarah's vision was finally realized on August the 8th when the "new look" Okere Falls Store opened to coincide with a major planting of the lake edge over the road.

About 50 locals turned up at the planting site just south of the Okere Falls floodgates to plant over 1000 native plants on the lake edge to celebrate Conservation week.

Sarah and her team worked furiously keeping the workers fuelled with Rocket coffee and Bratwurst sausages. It was a great event!

Since that day the Store has gone from strength to strength.

The coffee is already famous amongst locals and travellers alike.

Foremost the Okere Falls Store is a local store where you can buy general provisions, but the added bonus is the wonderful gourmet ready meals and delicacies that are available from the Deli section. This has proved to be an absolute winner for those travelling from other parts for the weekend.

The Store also sells hot pies, deli rolls, cookies, slices and great pancakes, which you are welcome to take out or eat on the premises and admire the view from the funky tables and chairs on the deck.

The Store has a great Community focus with locals supplying it with vegetables, eggs, home made jams and relishes.

It has become a centre point for locals to meet, chat, and have a coffee.

Most buy something delicious to eat or drink, then after a while take the journey home by boat, car or foot!

New stock is arriving daily.

The emphasis is on high quality tasty products, which are a little bit different.

The Eco Store range is available which are environmentally friendly, and kind to our septic tanks!

The Store caters for everyday needs such as bread, milk, papers and run of the mill supermarket items. It also specializes in ready gourmet meals, ingredients for a special meal, fine bottles of wine, Italian pasta, rice and breads, olive oils and gourmet nibbles like stuffed vine leaves, olives and artichokes. These are just some of the diverse products Sarah is getting in daily.

Our Store is unique! Very Okere Falls with a little bit of Italy thrown in.

Congratulations to Sarah and her fabulous team!

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## The Lake Rotoiti Classic and Wooden Boat Association

The Association is in good heart with now over 70 members. The official start to our season was our annual fishing contest at Labour weekend with over 60 people turning up to the official prize giving at Bill Fowlers Boat shed at Kakaho Bay. The evening was great. It was interesting to note that the number of fish was less but the quality was great.

It's great to see more classic boats out on the lake with Kotuku being relaunched after a major refit, Te Whara and another new launch in Okawa Bay. There are a number of other members getting boats ready for the lake.

During the winter we had a working bee on DOC land at Whangamoa Point. This is a point on the north eastern side of the lake opposite the hot pools. Over 20 residents and members turned up on a wet day in October with chainsaws and in 3 hours we were able to clear gorse from half of this point. This is an on going project that will require these working bees 2 or 3 times a year for the next few years. When it is finished it will make a wonderful picnic area. We should be able to use some of the area this season, I see this as a great area for all lake boaties to use.

## Next years' events

The Parade this year will be held on the Sunday the 5th of February at 10am we are again planning on having a function at 6pm on the 4th at the Duxton.

We are also planning a light parade on the water at New Year and a seagull race during the year.

This Association is not just for those people with old boats, we also encourage membership from those with an interest in old boats, and an interest in the history of the lake. Our annual subscription this year is just \$10 per family. Visit our web site www.woodenboatparade. co.nz. Or contact our secretary - Nigel Brock, 76 Te Akau Rd, RD 4, Okere Falls, Rotorua. Phone 021780456 Grant Cossey - Commodore.

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## SAILS ON THE LAKE

Notes from the Bay of Plenty Yacht Squadron

Despite the unpredictable weather conditions the Squadron has been attempting to make a start on the season's activities. Ironically it has been the social/cruising activities which have suffered the most, while racing on Wednesdays and Sundays has been able to continue largely unaffected, apart from some 'over-calm' conditions.

Our racing programme is largely confined to those Wednesdays and Sundays so you'll know when to expect to find us active on the water.

Whilst algal bloom has no direct effect on the racing programme, it can certainly spoil family fun on the water, and take the edge off the racing experience. We all appreciate following our sport in near pristine, attractive surroundings.

BOPYS is, therefore, committed to maintaining the quality of the environment, so we have, since our inception insisted that all boats have a self-contained toilet system, and for the last few years we have put in place a zero-waste, zero-discharge policy which is being carefully and willingly followed by all our members.

When we are well into the New Year (i.e. in winter!), the Squadron has planned to undertake a planting programme on the littoral at Te Arero Bay. This proposal has been pursued for over two years, and now, with the help of Sally Brock, the project looks to be near commencement. One of our members has prepared a computer simulated rendition of how Te Arero could look in about 100 years, reforested in native bush. When I can lay my hands on a copy we can hopefully have it published in this newsletter.

Finally, the most interesting and immediate development revolves around the Council's proposal to divert the Ohau Channel flow. If Planning Approval is obtained, the council has approached the Squadron to open our boat ramp for public use during the times they close the public ramp at Mourea.

Our Executive has had no hesitation in giving this suggestion approval, subject to the weir construction going ahead and for the duration of the construction. We look forward to sharing our facilities with other local boaties, and hope to develop further good relations with fellow Lake Users.

See you on the water!
Bruce Holt, Rear Commodore, 'Hot Mumble' T348



## A message from the HARBOUR MASTER . . .

I have decided to submit to three Ratepayers Organisations, one article. I believe it may be of interest for all to have an awareness of 'what's going on' at other water bodies around the District, in the hope that the 'common theme' becomes obvious.

My core functions are Navigation and Safety. The Navigation part is easy to comprehend, i.e. Buoyage, Beacons, Leaders, Hazards etc., but what of the Safety? In essence, the efforts surrounding the Navigation component can, and does, cater towards the Safety of mariners, their crews and vessels. What are we trying to achieve? Well, we are trying to avoid a repeat of the Queenstown death; through the education, demarcation and isolation of all user groups on our waterways.

During the past twelve months, significant efforts have been applied in identifying areas in which we believe the potential fortragedy is high. Subsequently, plans have been formulated to protect (as much as possible) the safety of those utilising our waters i.e. you, your families, friends, neighbours, workmates, etc.

Consultation with user groups and ratepayer organisations has ensued, plans have been discussed, some accepted readily, others disposed of even quicker and some altered to accommodate those with vested interest.

As a result, intentions to modify Navigation in four major water bodies have been made and will be implemented prior to this Christmas.

## Lake Rotoiti

**Okawa Bay** has historically seen residents ski to and from the backyards of the houses along the Western Shore.

In 1976, the then Rotorua County Council decided against permitting this activity, mooting user conflict amongst the groups. This decision was met with distaste from the residents and the decision to prohibit this activity was overturned two months later. The Council never gazetted this situation.

Residents continue to ski from their lawns and back. The area is subject to a 5 knot restriction around its perimeter and the activity of 'dropping' skiers back amongst the structures is considered dangerous.

As of 30/11/2005, skiers may continue to ski from their lawns **provided the way is clear**. This activity is endorsed from the point of view that the boat and skier are able to integrate into the pattern at speed and are not likely to be hit by other vessels circulating.

Vessels will not be permitted to enter the 5 knot restricted areas when <u>dropping</u> their tow. They must allow the skier to enter this margin and release, reduce speed to 5 knots and then enter the restricted area and return to shore.

#### Lake Tarawera

**Rangiuru Bay** has a Boat Launching facility, bordered by a swimming area, which borders a ski lane, which borders a number of jetties, moorings and an acclaimed fly-fishing



Open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. 7 days except Christmas Day

area. It is the 'Okawa Bay' of Lake Tarawera, the only spot where physical contacts take place regularly. Last season these were Boat vs. Swimmer, Boat vs. Kayaker and Boat vs. Angler.

Rangiuru Bay ski lane is one of the longest standing in the District and the first at Tarawera. Its position adjacent to the reserve and playground have made it one of the most heavily utilised recreational areas throughout the District, by the greatest cross section of user groups. User conflict (as we put it) is very high in this location.

Rangiuru Bay ski lane is a temporary lane. It has traditionally been installed on the 01<sup>st</sup> December and removed on the 31<sup>st</sup> March annually.

This ski lane will **not** be installed this coming season. The results will be analysed as the season progresses and if its intended aim serves to provide the desired added safety for users of this area; the ski lane will be abolished in its entirety.

The activity of Water Skiing (and other like towing activities) or exceeding 5 knots, within 200 metres of shore, will be prohibited.

### Lake Okareka

Boyes Beach (like Rangiuru Bay) is heavily utilised and accessible by land. Whilst the 200 metre- 5-knot buoys are in situ, vessels continue to enter this margin at speed and make way through swimmers to make landfall on the beach. Temptation appears to run high and some decide to ski from this area. Human nature (being what it is) causes many to swim out to the buoys, raising the potential for contact of the worse kind i.e. fast moving Vessel vs. Swimmer.

In the past, user conflict was not very high. Changes in 'leisure loading demographics' (largely due to poorer water quality at Lake Rotoiti), has placed Lake Okareka under siege. In the past three seasons there has been exponential growth in the numbers of vessels choosing to launch here.

Most user groups recreate here. Conflict is high as a result. Intentions to increase the restricted 5 knot water by about 4 percent were opposed, largely by skiers crying foul that the water I had indicated to involve was the 'best' on the Lake given prevailing wind. The proposal divided the community and interest has been high. I personally am disappointed with the response; however, the upcoming changes intend to satiate my concerns to some degree.

In future, the southern half of Boyes Beach, including all of Little Boyes Beach, is to be buoyed off as a 'passive and swimming area only'. No vessels will be permitted to enter this Passive Area.

Vessels may land on the Northern half of Boyes Beach adjacent to the Te Waiariki Purea facility.

## Lake Tikitapu

Lake Tikitapu has swimming areas East and West of a central Ski Lane. Right smack bang in the middle of the Take Off and Drop Off Zones (Ski Lane) is a Boat Launching Ramp. The Drop Off Zone (in this case the right side as you view the water from land) comes in adjacent to a very popular (and large) sandy beach heavily utilised by swimmers for a long period of the season. To the East is a Passive Area

extending to the far shore, which incorporates a swimming area. This configuration has confirmed that demarcations of the user groups does work, and thus forms the basis of the above mentioned mandates.

Tikitapu is close to town and therefore heavily utilised by many. It has traditionally been the focus for events and other surface water activities. The immediate area has great facilities in the camp, reserves, toilets, playground, passive and swimming areas and geographical size. The surrounding topography lends much protection and the limited water area does not offer the fetch required to frequently break the surface waters to a dangerous state.

With so many differing user groups, and such large numbers, Lake Tikitapu is a Navigation Management nightmare. Resources are often placed under pressure by the frequent need to attend 'situations' that occur regularly here during the season. Event Management adds to this pressure.

In terms of future directions for use, the Western side of the ski lane will be moved Eastwards and lie immediately to the East of the Boat Launching Ramp. The eastern end (take off) will move further east and lie adjacent to the playground (which is to be moved to the Western Reserve). The Western beach (large one on the right) is to be set up as a smaller passive area and swimming area much like the Eastern end.

No vessels will be permitted to enter the passive areas and swimming areas that will be found on the western end of the beach as well as the eastern end.

Incidentally, many of you may not be aware of the reason behind why the ski lane at Lake Tikitapu is the only lane in New Zealand to operate clockwise.

If it were to operate anti-clockwise like all the others, the setting sun to the west would blind the skipper of the tow vessel on approach to the drop off zone.

Setting the future scene now for surface water use enables us to focus on the production of Lake Guides, user information pamphlets and signage. This in turn raises education levels across the board and 'future proofs' our recreational opportunities.

Quite obviously, in a perfect world, it would be nice to have full support for these implementations. Unfortunately, living in a less than perfect world, I am appreciative that some are opposed to change generally, whilst others will be opposed to these specifics. My hope is that the bulk of you can, and will appreciate, having an overview of the District wide application, that these changes are based on a desire and intent to improve safety, avoid death and ease the overall burdens my unit faces with the effective management of surface water activities.

Just a reminder that for matters pertaining to Navigation and Safety, please call 0800 368 267.

And from the team and me, we would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and a Safe and Enjoyable Boating season. See you out there!

Yours in Boating

Andrew Lang, Harbour Master.

## Minutes of the AGM of the Lake Rotoiti Ratepayers & Residents **Association**

Held on Sunday 9 January 2005 at 10:00 am at Pikiao Rugby League Club, Mourea

**Present**:

Sally Brock, Richard Wilson, Nigel Brock, Mike McVicker, Geoff Turner, Phil Thomass, Marion Smith, Steve Howard (Committee), Paul Dell (EBOP), Glenys Searancke (RDC), Robin Ford (EBOP), Russell Judd (RDC), Ian Noble (EBOP), Ian McLean (Chairman of LWQ), Tai Eru (EBÓP), John Cronin (EBÓP Chairman), Cliff Lee (RDC), Anaru Rangiheuea

(Chairman of Te Arawa Maori Trust Board) and 120 residents/ratepayers.

Apologies: Kevin Winters (RDC Mayor), Peter Guerin (RDC), Bill Kingi and W Emery (LRRRA

Committee), Bill Cleghorn (EBOP), Councillor Trevor Maxwell, Steve Chadwick (MP), Brett Cooper (Community Constable), Mr and Mrs De Lange, Roly Earp, Fred Whata, Ria Whata, Marcus Wilkins, Colin & Jill Mitchell, Sir Gavin and Lady Donne (Members).

Moved: Richard Wilson / Seconded: Sally Brock – Apologies be accepted. Carried.

#### 1. OPENING

(a) Tai Eru opened the meeting with words of welcome and asked for Stan Newton, who fought tirelessly for water and sewage for Mourea to be remembered. Tai asked the meeting to also remember the recent death of Hapi Winiata, who served on the LRRRA committee for many years and offered sympathy and memories. He stressed the most important thing in life is people, people, people and concluded with a karakia.

#### 2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

(a) Moved: Mary Stanton / Seconded: Mike McVicker that they be accepted as a true and correct record. Carried.

#### 3. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Jim Stanton spoke to the Mourea water supply and asked the incoming committee to pursue extending water to Mourea from Brunswick.

(b) Nick Miller raised the condition of Te Akau Rd. He noted that on 4 November 2004 he emailed Rotorua District Council about a missing storm water grate and asked for urgent replacement. He noted nothing had happened other than placement of a cone. He asked for action to be taken by RDC.

(c) Lindsay Brighouse noted bad slipping since the earthquake on Te Akau Rd, and noted that it is now

- (d) Tai Eru commented that the state of Te Akau Rd should be referred to the RDC Maori Standing
- (e) Cynthia and Bob Armstrong raised the issue of the Gisborne Point footpath and asked the committee to request council to put new seal on it as it was being overgrown with invasive weeds.

(f) Nick Miller further spoke on the issue of water supply and said that the current system was of third

(g) Lindsay Brighouse further noted the sign on the Mourea hill referred to in the 2004 AGM minutes

was destroyed two days later, (and it was not by him).

(h) Glenys Searancke advised that Te Akau Rd was, she understood, up for resealing in September 2005. She also noted the Gisborne Point request and advised that she would take it up. Lastly, she spoke to the issue of water supply and noted that the RDC put a proposal to residents but it was rejected by them on the grounds of cost. She noted that it was sad that the water pipe had not been put in the sewage trench but advised the Brunswick water was a private supply.

#### 4. ANNUAL REPORT

(a) Sally Brock presented her annual report. Bob Armstrong congratulated her for the good work done but asked why the report in the newsletter differed from that circulated at the AGM. In particular, he was referring to the non-reference to Emery Park in the meeting report and requested advice. Sally advised that issues of ownership and leases were still to be resolved but that the committee would be monitoring progress.

## 5. FINANCIAL

(a) Richard Wilson presented his report.

Moved: Richard Wilson; Seconded: Mike McVicker that it be accepted. Carried.

(b) Richard moved a vote of thanks to Ivan Thomson ACA and moved that he be reappointed. Moved: Richard Wilson; Seconded: Jim Stanton. Carried.

## 6. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

(a) The existing 2004 committee (less Marion Smith) plus Brentleigh Bond, Stefan Bennett, John Green and Glenda Stimpson offered themselves for election.

Moved: Sally Brock; Seconded: Richard Wilson that these persons be elected. Carried.

### 7. LAKE WATER QUALITY

(a) Ian McLean addressed the meeting and advised that while good progress was being made, Lake monitoring still showed Rotoiti as bad as ever. He advised that prospects were not as gloomy as were thought last year, however, and congratulated Paul Dell on his efforts. He advised that it was a huge project and that the whole of New Zealand had to embrace the concept as the lakes are a national asset. He noted project management is the major issue ahead but generally congratulated the LRRRA on its efforts to date.

#### 8. HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT

(a) Andrew Lang's report was presented by Richard Wilson highlighting the need for anti-clockwise boat movement in Okawa Bay and the need for observance of the speed restrictions in the Okere arm.

#### 9. POLICE REPORT

(a) Richard Wilson presented community constable Brett Cooper's report noting that Dean Vincent had been recaptured in Pukehina in a cave, and that a substantial amount of stolen property has been recovered. Residents who had suffered loss will be contacted by the police shortly.

## 10. WOODEN BOAT PARADE

(a) Grant Cossey presented the Wooden Boat Parade plans for 2005 noting that the organisation had been re-named "Classics" thus widening the scope of participants. This year's parade is to take place on Saturday 5 February 2005 with a preceding BBQ on Friday 4 on the lawn of the Duxton. Further information could be obtained from www.woodenboatparade.co.nz.

## 11. GENERAL BUSINESS

(a) A motion was put to the meeting that it agree, (upon incorporation and registration of the LRRRA as an incorporated society), to transfer the assets of LRRRA to the newly incorporated LRRRA Inc.

Moved: Geoff Turner; Seconded: Sally Brock. Carried.

(b) Tai Eru spoke of the need for greater speed enforcement in Mourea. He congratulated Kevin Thompson of RDC for the roadworks by the nursery, but wanted greater future focus to be brought on the enforcement of speed. Bob Armstrong suggested the committee ask the RDC to consider a roundabout at the junction in light of the recent horrific accidents.

(c) Mourea sewage: Mary Stanton congratulated all concerned on the implementation of the Mourea sewage scheme but asked the committee to ensure that the RDC maintained the roads behind the kayak shop

area including the side roads to the tennis courts. She noted these roads were all on Maori land.

(d) Gisborne Point boat-ramps: Sherrilyn Coney noted that the existing boat ramp was under pressure and asked that consideration be given to additionally restoring the original boat ramp to provide a second option.

The meeting closed at 11:05 am and a report on lake water quality was then made by Paul Dell to the assembled gathering.

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LAKE ROTOITI RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION TO BE HELD AT

## PIKIAO RUGBY LEAGUE CLUBROOMS, TAKINGA STREET, MOUREA

#### **AGENDA**

Apologies; Karakia/Opening; Minutes of the Previous AGM; Matters Arising; Chairpersons Report; Financial Report; Election of Auditor; Election of Committee; Special Business (See \* below); Reports; General Business Guest Speaker; Paul Dell Lakes Restoration Coordinator, Environment Bay of Plenty.

10 AM SUNDAY THE 8TH JANUARY 2006

### \* SPECIAL BUSINESS \*

The Executive Committee will propose at the AGM the following motion:

"That this Association resolves to; (a) Wind up; (b) Pay all its debts and liabilities; (c) After payment of its debts and liabilities, transfer its assets and pay any surplus funds to the Lake Rotoiti Community Association Inc (being the community association nominated by the Executive Committee pursuant to Rule 10 of the LRRRA Rules)."

The LRRRA resolved at the 2005 AGM to incorporate it as an incorporated society and upon incorporation to transfer the net assets of the LRRRA to the new (then anticipated) LRRRA Inc. In the meantime we have attempted to get charitable status (to allow tax deductibility of donations and an income tax exemption for the first \$1,000 of interest received).

To do so we had to show that there was public benefit to a defined local community. Hence we propose the new name should be the Lake Rotoiti Community Association Inc rather than any name incorporating residents and ratepayers. Further, we had to widen the scope of the ambit of the association to include the community that travels to, uses, lives in or at or owns or leases land in or at, Lake Rotoiti.

We have proceeded to incorporate the slightly amended society format and out of caution seek member's further approval at the 2006 AGM.

All members of the old LRRRA Unincorporated are eligible to become members of the new LRCA Inc, and of course the focus of the new society will be exactly the same as that of the old unincorporated body. Even if we do not get final IRD approval for charitable status, we have definitely obtained the interest exemption. Accordingly as the new society has now been incorporated, subscriptions will be issued and receipted at last years rates (\$10 membership fee and \$10 donation) in the name of the new LRCA Inc. We will advise you at the AGM as to whether the IRD have approved the society as having charitable status in which case the \$10 donation will be eligible for you to claim tax relief as a charitable donation."

## **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS					
Fire, Police, Aml	111				
Accident / Medic	348-1000				
Urgent Pharmacy	348-4385				
Rotorua Hospital	348-1199				
St John Ambular	348-6286				
Poisons Informat	03-474-7000				
Rotorua Police S	348-0099				
TrustPower Eme	0800-878-787				
Energy Online F	0800-083-285				
Environment Pol	0800-738-393				
S.P.C.A	349-2955				
Dog Control (RI	348-4199				
Harbour Master	348-4199				
- After Hours 34	08-650-374-645				
Coastguard - Ric	348-9490				
Marine Radio - I	348-7429				
Dept. of Conserv	346-1155				
M.A.F.	07-578-2069				
Fish and Game E	357-5501				
Fish and Game I	0800-542-362				
Poaching	0800-762-244				
Environment Bay	0800-368-267				
Rotorua District	348-4199				
Lake Maintenand	362-4814				
Pumps	-Hi Flo Pumps	348-7516			
	- A/Hrs	025-274-6881			
Septic Tanks	- Allens United	332-3694			
	- Rotorua Waste Disposal	357-4534			
Emerys Store	362-7866				
Happy Angler St	362-4709				
Okere Falls Store	362-4944				
Rotoma Trading	362-0722				

## **REFUSE DISPOSAL**

## **Weekly Household Refuse Collection**

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

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## **Refuse & Recycling Okere Transfer Station**

Located at Okere Rd (just south of SH33) **Hours:** 1.00pm - 4.00pm Wednesday

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Sunday and Public Holidays 9.30am - 4.30pm

**CLOSED** Christmas Day

**Landfill Fees Apply** 

## Ngati Pikiao Health Services 07-362-7888

### Hinehopu

Mon 9 - 1pm, 2 - 5pm Thur 9 - 1pm, 3 - 4.30pm

Fri 9 - 1pm

## 2005 Lake Rotoiti Ratepayers and Residents Association Committee

Chair: Secretary:	Sally Brock Vacant	Okere Falls	362-4764	te-pohutukawa@paradise.net.nz
Treasurer:	Brentleigh Bond	Mourea	362-4700	grahamb@clear.net.nz
<b>Committee:</b>	Stefan Bennett	Okere Falls	362-4204	stefan.bennett@pfolsen.co.nz
	Nigel Brock	Okere Falls	362-4764	te-pohutukawa@paradise.net.nz
	Willie Emery	Gisborne Pt	362-7737	winnie.emery@clear.net.nz
	John Green	Okere Falls	362-4202	green.boys@xtra.co.nz
	Steve Howard	Okere Falls	362-4449	s.howard@clear.net.nz
	Bill Kingi	Parcliffe	345-7186	wakingi@xtra.co.nz
	Mike McVicker	Mourea	362-4776	mcvicker@wave.co.nz
	Glenda Simpson	Hinehopu	(09) 825-0710	glendas@pl.net
	Phill Thomass	Hinehopu	021-47-44-55	lrrra@thomass.net
	Geoff Turner	Waiiti	362-7611 (09) 578-3773	gjt@fmlaw.co.nz

## LAKE MAINTENANCE

**NOEL & SUZANNE RUEBE** 

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