



## Lake Rotoiti Ratepayers & Residents Association



*Early morning fishing on Rotoiti*

**Winter is well and truly here** and the Real Fishermen and Women have taken over from those of us limited to jigging from the boat. All around the lake small groups gather in the darkness to stand knee deep in the cold but bloom-free waters of the lake while the rest of us sit in front of our fires and envy them. The year is half gone already and while it hasn't been as hectic as last year in terms of local issues, some new ones have come along, while many others are ongoing. We also have an election looming which may or may not have an impact on us with regard to Lakes Restoration and sewerage reticulation.

After another summer marred by blooms and health warnings it is pleasing to be able to report that the Resource Consent Application for the diversion of the Ohau Channel has been submitted and is open to submissions.

This is a great step forward in the moves to restore water quality in Lake Rotoiti. We are moving from research and analysis of what is happening in the lake and what can be done, to action. There has been considerable consultation over the diversion and although there are concerns amongst those downstream of Rotoiti hopefully these will all be addressed.

LRRRA will be making a submission in support of the Resource Consent Application.

Now that the Eastern Sewerage Scheme is well under way attention is shifting to other areas around the lake. Currently a scheme for Okere Falls and Otaramarae is being investigated, and some concerns have arisen especially in terms of how Council has seemed unable to

give residents a reasonable estimate of cost. As schemes are scheduled for the rest of the lake over the next 5 years, we should all be watching how Council performs on this issue and supporting Okere Falls and Otaramarae residents in their goal of achieving a suitable sewerage scheme at an affordable cost.

Early this year the Combined Lakes Ratepayers Association started investigating the possibility of establishing a Lakes area based Community Board, partly in response to Rotorua District Council's increasing of the differential rating base last year for most rural lakeside ratepayers in spite of stiff opposition from the affected communities. A letter on this issue has been sent to all eligible voters to gauge support for a Community Board. There is an article in this newsletter explaining some of the features and functions of Community Boards.

### **WE NEED HELP! 6th AUGUST 9AM**

We need help with the  
**PLANTING OF NATIVE PLANTS**  
AT THE KAITUNA STREAM EDGE  
(by the Okere Falls Store) on  
**SATURDAY AUGUST 6TH AT 9AM.**

Please come along and help!  
Queries to Sally Brock 3624764

# Chairpersons Report.

## Tena koutou katoa

Nau Mai, Haere mai, ki tenai to tatou panui.

I hope all of you have enjoyed the extended summer, which was brought very abruptly to an end on Anzac weekend.

Summer's Activities were again dampened by another whole of Lake Health warning, because of a major blue/green algal bloom. The algal counts were the highest ever.

This serves to remind us that this will be a regular summer occurrence, which will get worse, until action is taken to reduce the amount of nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorous) in the Lake. Despite the bloom, the Lake remained remarkably clear, due to the fact that the algal species dominating this summer was smaller, and difficult to perceive with the naked eye.

This species was a little easier to live with I think than the pea soup variety of the previous 2 years. The potential for harm from these blooms still remains, however, even when the water is apparently clear.

It is now 2 ½ years since the catastrophic decline that led to the first whole of Lake Health warning.

Much progress has been made since, especially in assessing the effects of a diversion structure that will divert the water from the Ohau Channel away from the main body of Lake Rotoiti. Most of the nutrients, 70% in fact, entering Lake Rotoiti come from Lake Rotorua via the Ohau Channel.

Lake Rotoiti acts like a sink for these nutrients and a breeding ground for algae. The nutrients form sediments on the floor of Lake Rotoiti, and during the summer when the Lake stratifies or divides into layers, the layer at the bottom becomes starved of oxygen and as a result releases phosphorous and nitrogen, which feeds the algae. The number of algae increases and becomes an algal bloom.

The diversion will physically stop the nutrients entering Lake Rotoiti where they become a source of food for these algae.

The algal blooms that have affected the Okere Arm and the Kaituna River in the last 3 years have mainly come from the Western Basin of Lake Rotoiti. The diversion is hoped to ultimately decrease the amount of blooms on the Okere Arm and the Kaituna River and lead to an improvement of water quality in them also.

A huge amount of science and modelling supports these statements.

If no action is taken to improve the water quality in Lake Rotoiti in the short term then, Lake Rotoiti will get significantly worse and algal blooms will increase, as they will also in the Okere Arm and the Kaituna River.

We simply do not have a choice. Lake Rotoiti does not have time to wait for Land use changes to improve the water quality in Lake Rotorua. The diversion is probably the best shot we have to "save" Rotoiti and its potential effectiveness is supported by the best science available.

Other short term measures, that will reduce "quickly" the nutrient loading into Lake Rotorua, are being investigated, such as reducing the amount of nitrogen and phosphorous in the

streams that flow into Lake Rotorua, and diverting the flow away from the Lake.

These short term measures are hoped to halt the decline, and bring some improvement in water quality, in the short to medium term, while land use changes, which will take 100 years or so to have an effect at lake level are being worked on.

LRRRA is represented on the Lake Rotorua/ Rotoiti Action Plan Working Party, and is pushing for action as quickly as possible. It is hoped that by all sectors of the community working together on the Plan, that sustainable solutions are found for landowners and the environment.

The lay-by adjacent to the Delta boat ramp on SH 33 has had its revamp. The tar seal has been replaced, and we have new furniture. Work is continuing there as a beautification project incorporating the Delta car park area and jetty. This is planned once negotiations with land owners and funding agencies are complete.

The Emery Park upgrade is still planned for construction. Negotiations with Trustees are nearing completion and an agreement is to be signed in the near future.

LRRRA have been in constant correspondence with the Department of Conservation regarding the reserves around Lake Rotoiti. We are pleased to see some improvements in some DOC reserves, especially Te Akau Recreational Reserve, Hongi's Track Reserve at Hinehopu, and the Okere Falls Reserve. Members of our community have been assisting DOC in their efforts. THANK YOU.

Progress on the Hinehopu Transfer Station has been delayed due to Transit's requirement for an entry and exit on to SH 30. The site is long and narrow, and these constraints are making design difficult. Alternative sites for the Transfer Station are being investigated.

The Troutpool Reserve at the end of Troutpool Road is in the design stage of a major upgrade. Consultation has occurred with the users of the area, Fish and Game and Landowners. The Concept design has been done and it looks great. All going well, we will soon have a facility that befits this area.

A group has been formed at Gisborne Point called the Punawhakareia Bay Action Group, as a result of proposed action by Viking Timber to change the position of the access to the forest of SH30, with road widening at that point. Obviously residents are concerned because of the possible impacts on the area; LRRRA supports their concerns, and are represented at the group's meetings to follow progress on the matter.

We have had some major issues regarding our rural roads this year, most brought to our attention by the community. Our Annual Plan submission to Council this year highlights the extent of degradation and disrepair our roads are subjected to. We continue to bring these issues to Council's attention with the hope of getting some action on them.

Please keep Lake Rotoiti and its environs clean and healthy by disposing of rubbish (garden and household) appropriately. Rubbish bags are collected at the kerb side on Monday morning including public holidays (excluding Christmas Day). If this is inconvenient, please visitors, take your rubbish home! And those who rent their homes please make sure your guests know when rubbish collection occurs. By leaving rubbish at the kerbside, days before collection, you commit those who live here to clean up your mess after animals have scattered the rubbish for miles!

Have some consideration for your neighbours and the environment PLEASE!

The committee is here to serve you by liaising with both Councils to bring about the change you want to see in your Community. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the committee for their hard work this year.

Tena koe mo to mahi manaaki I ahau.

Ka whakamiharo atu ahau mo o koutou mahi awhina i a matou. And to also thank you, our Ratepayers for your ongoing support and assistance.

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

Kia Ora  
Sally Brock

## OKERE FALLS ECOLOGICAL CARE GROUP REPORT

It is 2 years since planting began at Te Akau Road, and I have to say it is so rewarding to see the difference they have made to the entrance of Te Akau Road. It is something everyone who has worked there at some time takes pride in every time they turn the corner from Okere Road.

The established plantings got a good dose of mulch before the heat of the summer, which kept the weeds at bay, and stopped the plants drying out.

Over the summer period we have been preparing the Te Akau Rd site and Kaituna Stream edge for planting in July.

The plantings at Te Akau Rd are well established and at least one site needing very little up keep.

Generally the main tasks have been to keep weeds at bay. We are ready for planting the remainder of Te Akau Rd in July.

We will have around 200 natives to plant here so any help offered is very welcome.

The Kaituna Stream edge has had two major weed kills. This has been done by a contractor because of the difficulty posed by the terrain. Contractors are going to clear the area of major weed infestation before planting in August. There is also going to be a huge number of native plants to be planted in this area, so again, please any help you can offer will be much appreciated.

The Okawa Bay group have prepared their site for planting. An initial burn off, followed by weed spray control has prepared the site ready for planting lower growing hebes along the middle of the reserve with a mixture of trees at either end in mid June.

There are plenty of opportunities for anyone to lend a hand with the many projects that are in progress and those that will be undertaken in the future.

The Te Arero Bay Group is finalising agreements with the Land owners. They are hoping to get started on physical works soon.

If you are interested in helping with these projects, or have a project in mind, that you need assistance with please call- Sally Brock 3624764

Dianne Atkinson 3624644

Willie Shaw 3624315.



*Burn off at the reserve in Okawa Bay.*

### HAVE A PROBLEM WITH LAKEWEED?

Landward Management wants to know if you have a problem with excessive amounts of Lake Weed. They are the agency that is responsible for applying targeted amounts of spray to knock down lake weeds in areas where it is becoming a nuisance.

In the past this has been applied by boat, this year they want to apply it by Helicopter.

Both methods of application will apply the same amount and be just as accurate and effective. What do you think? Landward Management would value your opinion.

If Lake Weed is disrupting your boating activities, and, or, you would like to give your opinion as to the method of application, contact Landward Management.

(03) 4770215. Graeme Franklin.



# Lakes Rotorua & Rotoiti Catchment Management Action Plan

## The Ohau Channel Diversion Wall

Newsletter no. 06 | July 2005



Environment Bay of Plenty has applied for resource consent to build a wall in Lake Rotoiti. The structure is designed to stop water flowing from Lake Rotorua into the main body of Lake Rotoiti via the Ohau Channel.

Most of Lake Rotoiti's problems are caused by nutrients flowing into it from Lake Rotorua. So building the wall will, over time, significantly improve the lake's water quality. Scientists say it will have little impact on Kaituna River quality.

Environment Bay of Plenty asked the community for informal feedback through a newsletter on the proposal. We received 354 replies and had regard to these in our final decision making. Now, we are entering the project's official phase, as required by law. It means you now have an opportunity to formally voice your opinions. The official notification period is expected to start in early July. Check your local newspaper for details. To find out how to make a submission, go to the back page of this newsletter.

### The wall

The structure will stand on the lake floor and rise to just above water level. It will be 1250 metres long, starting by the Ohau Channel outlet, which links the two lakes, and extending to Te Akau Point. It will be about 75 m offshore, running parallel to State Highway 33.

The main length of wall will be of solid sheet-pile material that should last for at least 50 years. However, a lighter style of construction may be needed around the Ohau Channel if there is a lack of a firm foundation for piles.

The wall is expected to cost \$12m to build. This is being funded by Environment Bay of Plenty and central Government.

The final design of the structure has been based on feedback from the public at various hui and public meetings, as well as comments received on the questionnaires, and a number of technical studies.

These studies include:

- Water quality modelling
- Sediment transport modelling
- Hydrodynamic modelling of the lake
- Geotechnical investigations
- Assessment of effects on downstream water quality in the Kaituna River and Maketu Estuary
- Landscape and visual assessment
- Cultural assessment
- Ecological assessment, including effects on fish and waterbirds

### Main facts

- High levels of nutrients are the main cause of algal blooms in lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti.
- More than 70 percent of Lake Rotoiti's nutrients come from Lake Rotorua through the Ohau Channel.
- A diversion structure will stop water from Lake Rotorua flowing into the main body of Lake Rotoiti. It will direct the outflow so it runs through the Okere Arm of Lake Rotoiti into the Kaituna River.
- The structure will not change nutrient levels in Lake Rotorua so other urgent actions will have to take place to improve the water quality and reduce the risk of cyanobacteria blooms in that lake and in the Kaituna River.
- Resource consent applications to build the wall have been prepared and lodged with Rotorua District Council and Environment Bay of Plenty.
- You can have your say on these applications – for more information see the back page of this newsletter.



## On-Site Effluent Treatment Regional Plan and How it Affects Rotoiti Residents

There has been some confusion over just what the Proposed On-site Effluent Treatment Regional Plan will mean for Rotoiti residents and what the implications are for existing systems, especially if they fail inspection or people are wanting to develop their properties. Hopefully this article by Environment Bay of Plenty will be of help.

The Bay of Plenty has thousands of households with on-site treatment systems. Many are very old and very basic. In some areas, they are causing quite serious pollution problems. This includes the Rotorua Lakes catchments where too many nutrients are entering the lakes and degrading their water quality.

Environment Bay of Plenty has an On-Site Effluent Treatment Regional Plan which controls the discharge of domestic wastewater effluent. We have it to better manage the treatment and discharge of domestic wastewater effluent, particularly in areas where effluent discharges contribute to water being polluted. We are reviewing the plan to improve water quality throughout the region by setting better controls for the treatment and discharge of effluent, particularly in the Rotorua Lakes catchments and coastal harbour/estuary areas.

If the Proposed (Reviewed) On-site Effluent Treatment Plan is adopted by Environment Bay of Plenty it will affect ratepayers in the Rotorua Lakes catchment. Here is an overview of what the Proposed (Reviewed) Plan may mean to you.

### **For Conventional On-Site Effluent Treatment Systems discharging up to 2m<sup>3</sup>/day to land**

Communities of Okawa Bay/Mourea, Okere Falls, Otaramarae, Hinehopu, Gisborne Point

Are subject to a maintenance and performance inspection and certification programme until 1 December 2010.

After 1 December 2010 all systems require resource consent, unless the system is upgraded and can reduce the total nitrogen in the effluent discharge so it does not exceed 15 g/m<sup>3</sup>.

Systems within 200 metres from the lake edge

Are subject to a maintenance and performance inspection and certification programme.

After 1 December 2010 systems will need to be able to reduce the total nitrogen in the effluent discharge so it does not exceed 15 g/m<sup>3</sup>. This will require upgrades to existing systems.

Those systems not able to achieve this will require resource consent.

Within the lake catchment where there is more than one system per 4ha within the same property title then:

After 1 December 2010 systems will need to be able to reduce the total nitrogen in the effluent discharge so that it does not exceed 15 g/m<sup>3</sup>. This will require upgrades to existing systems.

Those systems not able to achieve this will require resource consent.

### **For Advanced On-Site Effluent Treatment Systems discharging up to 2m<sup>3</sup>/day to land**

Advanced systems can only be installed if unable to connect to an existing reticulation system.

For systems within 200 metres from the lake edge *or* within the lake catchment where there is more than one system per 4ha within the same property title:

Systems will need to be able to reduce the organic material held within the effluent discharged. This organic material decomposes, using up oxygen from the water, degrading water quality in streams and lakes. The organic material in the effluent discharge is measured as biochemical oxygen demand and suspended solid. These are to be reduced so they do not exceed 30g/m<sup>3</sup> and 45g/m<sup>3</sup> respectively.

After 1 December 2010 systems will need to be able to reduce the total nitrogen in the effluent discharge so it does not exceed 15g/m<sup>3</sup>. This may require upgrades to existing systems.

Systems unable to do this will require resource consent.

A record of servicing and maintenance must be kept and a certificate of performance from the manufacturer lodged with Environment Bay of Plenty.

### **Nutrient Stripping will improve the quality of our lakes**

Nutrients that can be dissolved in a lake, such as those from septic tank systems, boost the production of algae. In coastal areas the nutrients can disperse quickly and do not have the same impact as in a lake. Reducing the amount of nutrients that enter the lakes will help improve their quality and play an important part in keeping lakes healthy.

Environment Bay of Plenty has a list (not exclusive) of manufacturers' specifications of advanced systems that: are available in New Zealand, and meet the discharge limits for biochemical oxygen demand and suspended solids set by the plan.

## ON-SITE EFFLUENT TREATMENT REGIONAL PLAN CON'T

These specifications and those for nitrogen reduction are being supported by a trial that is testing some of these systems under Rotorua conditions. The results of these trials will be available early 2006.

### **Maintenance and Performance Inspection and Certification Programme**

Anticipated timeframe for reticulation:

Mourea/Okawa Bay to be completed by the end of 2005.

Okere Falls and Otaramarae by the end of 2008.

Gisborne Point and Hinehopu by the end of 2009.

For Mourea/Okawa Bay communities the Maintenance and Performance Inspection and Certification Programme (clean-out and inspection programme) has ceased to be required due imminent sewage reticulation.

In the communities of Gisborne Point and Hinehopu the clean-out and inspection programme continues.

However, because reticulation is planned for the communities of Gisborne Point and Hinehopu, if the system fails the inspection an upgrade may be deferred, or measures taken to minimise the effect in the interim.

In the communities of Okere Falls and Otaramarae the clean-out and inspection programme will be initiated, with the first round of inspections to be completed by 1 June 2006. However, because reticulation is planned, if the system fails the inspection an upgrade may be deferred, or measures taken to minimise the effect in the interim.

Once a reticulated system is available individuals can then connect onto the reticulated scheme, or upgrade to an advanced system, or apply for resource consent. However under the Local Government Act you are required to connect to a reticulated system if the reticulation is within 30m of the property boundary or within 60m of any dwelling.

Rotoiti residents need to be aware that all septic tank systems located within 200 metres from the lake edge will also be part of the clean-out and inspection programme. The first round of inspections is to be completed by 1 June 2006 with upgrades to advanced systems (with nutrient stripping) required by 1 December 2010.

**For more information on the Proposed (Reviewed) On-site Effluent Treatment Plan or on which systems meet the standards, see our website at [www.envbop.govt.nz](http://www.envbop.govt.nz) or contact us at 0800 ENV BOP (368 267).**

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## Progress Report on the Proposed Okere Falls and Otaramarae Sewerage Scheme

A brochure summarising the wastewater servicing options for Okere Falls and Otaramarae was sent to every rateable property in the area in March.

### The two main options are:

- 1) Connect Okere Falls / Otaramarae to the existing Rotorua Wastewater Treatment Plant in town. This could be achieved by connecting these two communities to the almost completed Mourea/Okawa Bay Scheme and to the newly started Eastern Trunk Main. The Eastern Trunk Main would connect the Mourea/Okawa Bay Scheme to the existing City Wastewater System upon its completion and in the future to the Brunswick, Rotokawa areas and possibly Whangamarino, Okere Falls and Otaramarae.
- 2) Establish a new local wastewater treatment and disposal system for the two communities.

A public meeting was held on 4 April to discuss the possible servicing options for the community. Submissions on the options were also called for and received.

The submissions, including issues raised, are now being summarised. A report summarising the results of the submissions will be included in the Council's Works Committee agenda for their 31 May meeting. One of the issues raised in the submissions and during the public meeting is the high cost of the scheme and the uncertainty of obtaining subsidy from Central Government and from the Environment Bay of Plenty.

To address the above issues, the following are either currently being undertaken or have been completed:

- 1) Preliminary design of the local reticulation system based on a combined gravity system and low pressure system on difficult areas is underway. The option of providing low pressure systems for the whole community will also be evaluated as part of the preliminary design process. It is expected that the preliminary design process, which will involve topographic survey of the area, will improve the accuracy of the costings initially presented.
- 2) Preliminary application for subsidy from the Ministry of Tourism was submitted in the first week of May. Result of the application will be known sometime in June 2005.
- 3) Preliminary application for subsidy from the Ministry of Health has been finalised and will be submitted for the July 2005 round of applications. Result of the application will be known about two months after the closing of applications.
- 4) A case to support a possible subsidy from Environment Bay of Plenty is being prepared.

Council will report back to the community after the completion of the preliminary design work and when the result of all the preliminary subsidy applications is known.

If you need to know more about the proposed scheme, please contact Greg Manzano on 07 348 4199.



## REFLECTIONS

### Written by Caroline Main, Kahuera Bay

“Caro it’s your turn today” – those words were like music to me cos it meant that it was my turn to go to Otaramarae to get the mail and the bread from the Van Man.

Perhaps I should tell you a little about Rotoiti first. In 1936 my parents bought this beautiful bay called Kahuera on the edge of Lake Rotoiti and every school holiday that I can remember was spent at this paradise. It had apple, plum and peach trees and raspberries that grew by the stream in the valley behind the house. There was lots of bush for building huts and things and places to play the thinking game like “Anne of Green Gables” in the Haunted Forest. In the Summer it never rained and the lake was always calm, or so it seemed to me, and if more than two launches crossed the bay in a day you would think it was a boat jam. I loved to watch the wake of a launch grow bigger as it got closer and closer. In the May holidays the northerly wind blew for days, it always rained and we lads seemed to spend every morning gathering pine cones or stacking wood that Dad cut up with the saw. August holidays was the time for pruning the giant blue hydrangeas. Sir Alexander Herdman, who Dad bought the property from, planted thousands of them and I’ll bet he didn’t have to prune them cos it took ages. There was plenty of time for cards and games in the afternoons, snakes and ladders for the little kids and monopoly for the big kids – till the fighting for Park Lane and Mayfair got so loud that Mum would put the game away and tell us to go and read a book, or do something else that was just as boring.

There were three ways to go to Otaramarae, I could walk through Te Mapu Morehu’s farm, always remembering to leave the gates as I found them, or paddle my canoe to Mitchell’s jetty and walk, or, and this was the way I really liked, paddle my canoe all the way as there were lots of things to do and see on the way.

My canoe was very special. Dad bought it for me when I was 10 after I had fallen in love with a canoe called the Silver Streak that I read about in the Girls Crystal Magazine, “Daphne’s Feud with the ‘Phantom Four’”. I called my canoe the “Silver Streak” too but unfortunately I left the R out of Streak and I had to wait a year before I could repaint it due to lack of paint.

I had to paddle fast past the Mitchell house in case the Mitchell boy and his friends came out in a dinghy to try to capsize me. Then I was safe, paddling past Cliff’s and Morty’s houses. Morty always gave me a wave, and if his friend from Thames was there he would give me two apricots. Going round the island was tricky cos Martin from Cliff’s house used to hide on the island sometimes and bombard me with moss balls, they didn’t hurt they were just messy. But actually Martin was my friend later as he had an Idle Along and we had a Zedee and we had races. It was great fun. Round the island there was a coastline of bush and here you could see the dab chick nests and watch the little chicks grow, that is if the black backs didn’t get the chicks first.

Then the long part of the marae, and it took ages but Mrs Carpenter who lives on the peninsula always had a lemon drink and an Anzac biscuit for me, she would say it was her weekly treat when I called in. Mrs Ball who lived next door would often join us for our little morning tea and she would know all the news in the marae and this was exciting cos our house seemed miles away.

When I left Mrs Carpenter it was not far to the marae, just round the point and there was the Post Office. When the Post Office first opened Mrs Manu Morehu was the Post Mistress and I will always remember her for her lovely smile, the packet of Park Drive and papers on the table beside her and that she was always fair when we lads had a fight. After she left Betty Tiatini took over and then we really had fun, cos in between sorting the mail and any phone calls to Rotorua, if she was in a good mood, we would spend hours with her Regal Zonophon Gramophone playing records. Betty had some really good records like Harriet with the Lariat, The Big Rock Candy Mountain and lots of cowboy records, much better than we had at home. Betty was my very dear friend right till the day she died and when I think of her I always remember that gramophone.

Often in the morning Mrs Morehu, Mrs Kennedy and Mrs Tiatini would come and sit on the Post Office step, sometimes making flax kete or embroidery but most times just talking and they did teach me some Maori words and how to behave in front of the elders. Most days Charlotte and Topsy would come, or Derek, Peter and Bronco and we would have hop scotch or kick the tin competitions. Topsy taught me how to make a poi out of flax and moss but I was not as good at swinging it as she was. We all used to have rides in my canoe but I had to take the mail out first in case it got wet and Mum and Dad got angry if I got the mail wet.

Te Mapu Morehu and Mr Tiatini often rode by on the horses and if we were doing anything silly like pushing each other into the water Te Mapu always told us to behave properly. He was a bit fierce but Mrs Manu Morehu told me he was the Rangatira, which means Chief, so I s’pose he had a lot to worry about without us kids being silly.

The Van Man would arrive at any time but I didn’t care about time cos I was having such fun with my friends. But when he did arrive people came from nowhere and as I was small I was always about the last to be served but he must have seen me cos he always saved our bread, and he shared his lunch with me, usually Sally Lunn loaf but it was better than a cheese sandwich back



home. Always as the Van Man drove back up the hill Mr Reeve would come and tell me to “paddle back home now” and when I was 13 Mum told me she had told him to do that – spoil sport.

The Post Office closed at 1pm and often Betty and I would meet on the point and go koura diving. The water at the point was not very deep but there were lots of really big koura there. Betty taught me how to latch koura one onto the other so you could bring 6 – 8 up at a time. We would put them into the canoe and when Betty felt we had caught enough we would swim pushing the canoe to the other side where Mr Harris had a bucket to put them in. I had to put the bread and mail into a tin.

By then it really was time to paddle home and if the westerly had got up I paddled across the bay first cos one time Mr Maltby came out in his launch and towed me home out of the westerly. I thanked him very much and he said “well you’d either end up at Hinehopu or drown and I don’t want that on my conscience”.

I like to wave to people cos my Grandmother told me that if people are sad and you wave and smile sometimes that can make them happy too. So I waved very hard at the house called Avalon cos Mrs Ball told me they had a very sick little girl so I hope I made them happy.

I didn’t really like going home cos I knew that Mum would say “Oh Caroline where have you been?” or “why has it taken you so long?” How could I answer that – old people can never understand.

### **Great Idea, Volunteer!**

Do you have 2 hours per week or fortnight for three months to accompany a person to achieve every day things in the community?

For example: Swimming, walking the dog, visiting a cafe or library, going places and / or sharing your skills.

Volunteering with IHC means creating more involvement and relationships in the community for people with intellectual disabilities.

### **Have fun, feel good, make a difference!**

For more information contact: Bronwen Ropiha, IHC Volunteer Service Coordinator  
email: [bronwen.ropiha@ihc.org.nz](mailto:bronwen.ropiha@ihc.org.nz), ph: 07 348 1451



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## MESSAGE FROM THE HARBOUR MASTER

Reflecting back over the last busy summer season, it has, without doubt, been an interesting one. Being the first summer we have had the fortune of running two vessels, changes were made to our application across the district with very positive results. Lake Rotoiti, being a definite benefactor of this increased service, has in itself had an interesting season.

Aside from one poorly educated author of a complaint letter who made the ridiculous statement that 'boaties know that the chances of seeing any authority on the water was remote' (there's always one!), I've been really pleased with the response from locals about the level of service offered to Lake Rotoiti by my team and I.

There was the disappointing Sunday back in January where every vessel requiring a chat was operated by a local... but enough of that. In contrast, my faith was quickly restored the dark Friday night when a contract drilling barge, testing sediments around the Delta/Okere Arm area, was left unattended and UNLIT, anchored in the Okere Access Lane. We were notified and 'Marama' and her crew were deployed. Upon their arrival, Grant Telfer of the Marine Dealership fame had secured a trailer vessel alongside with its anchor light displayed. Not only that, Lindsay Brighthouse was steaming around the barge aboard 'M.V. Shady Lady', warning mariners of the potential danger. Isn't that just awesome. And isn't it indicative of the nature of most mariners i.e. willing to assist when there's a need. On behalf of the lives potentially in danger that night, THANKS GUYS.

Research surrounding water quality is continuing at a high level, with Waikato University, NIWA, GNS, and Environment Bay of

Plenty all collating data which we certainly hope may bring about expedient solutions to current issues.

It may have been noticed that the Aids to Navigation (i.e. the buoys, beacons, leaders and signage) are currently the subject of upgrades and maintenance. Entrance buoys have been installed on the Lake side of the Okawa Bay Channel and these will soon carry beacons.

The long lost (but not forgotten) Hinehopu Temporary Ski Lane, which I removed early into my appointment due to Safety concerns, looks to have a new home. The Parks and Recreation Department of the Rotorua District Council have come to the party and cleared a far safer and more suitable site, along from the toilets at Hinehopu. This temporary facility i.e. it is installed 01 December and removed 31 March will be in situ for the upcoming season.

Finally, to confirm rumours flowing through the over active grapevine, the Rotorua District Council will not be resigning the contract for the provision of Navigation and Safety services on behalf of Environment Bay of Plenty come the end of the financial year 30 June 2005. What does this mean for us? Well, in all probability there may be little noticeable change, at least, that's the hope!

Navigation and Safety is a core function of Regional Councils throughout most of New Zealand. In our case, this responsibility has been undertaken at local territorial authority level by way of a Transfer of Power (delegation of authority).

Rob and I are to be employed by Environment BOP. Given that the Regional Council has a full and complete understanding of Navigation and Safety; I consider this move to be very appropriate and have absolute faith in a continuation of quality service. But remember, come 01 July 2005, all communications to this office, with the exception of direct dialling, can (and will need to!) be made through Environment Bay of Plenty, and no longer the Rotorua District Council.

Stay safe afloat.

Yours in Boating

Andrew Lang, Harbour Master

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## Feral Cats

If you have feral (wild) cats in your neighbourhood don't just complain and threaten to shoot them... Do something active and legal.

Feral cats are one of the main causes of the decrease in the native bird population in NZ. Have you ever wondered why the dawn chorus today is only half what it was ten years ago? Yes it is those wild moggies.

If you want to do something active to save the native birds go to the RSPCA and get a trap and catch those wild cats. For a donation of \$20 they provide you with a trap for a week and they will "dispose" of any cats you catch humanely. Let's face it, it is cheaper than a fishing license for a week and it will probably be a lot more productive. I suggest you don't set the traps during the holiday season otherwise you may trap out of town cats.

In February I trapped four cats in one week and a month later the bird life had increased amazingly.

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## THE LAKE 2004-05 ROTOITI FISHERY AND THE OHAU CHANNEL

The Lake Rotoiti fishery is continuing to be the stand-out of the Rotorua Lakes fisheries this summer. The summer has continued to produce excellent fish after the very good opening. The average weight of the fish caught over the summer looks a little better than last year and possibly higher than it has been since the 1997-98 summer. The rising 3-year-old fish are being weighed in at just under 3kg and this should produce some excellent fish for the winter anglers in the next 3-4 months. The smaller fish that were released last spring are also already turning up in the catch around the 47cm size, so should be well into the low 50cm and 2+kg mark by next opening.

We certainly didn't expect the fish in Rotoiti to do as well as they have done over the last 1-2 years and this shows how much more we need to understand about the food webs in the lake. With increased liberations since the year 2000, blooms of relatively unpalatable blue-green algae for zooplankton, and reduced summer angler harvest we expected to see problems with smelt populations in the lake. The fact that the fish in Rotoiti are better than they have been for many years shows that there is not a food problem in the lake. Indeed the fish appear to be doing very well in spite of the algae blooms. How the blooms affect the fish is not clear, but it is certain they are not as off-putting to fish as they are to anglers. We are looking forward to seeing what the late season competitions show, and what we can expect for 1 October 2005.

As many of you will be aware the proposal for the Ohau Channel diversion is well progressed and looks certain to be able to reduce a large amount of the nutrients that flow into Lake Rotoiti. This is great in the long term but what is less clear, and of concern to Fish & Game, is what effect the diversion will have on the hugely important fishery in the lake.

About 50% of the trout caught in Rotoiti are wild fish. Evidence suggests that many of these wild fish are sourced from either the Ohau Channel, or streams further afield like the Ngongotaha. When trout migrate to spawn they swim upstream, using chemical and temperature cues to home back to their natal streams. With the diversion of the Ohau Channel water these cues will most likely be lost. Maturing trout that used to swim into or through the channel may have real problems finding their way to their spawning grounds. Juvenile trout also move passively downstream after birth to find places to grow. Again with the diversion of the Channel it is likely that many young trout that would have eventually ended up in Rotoiti will be lost to the Kaituna River. We will see a decline in the wild fishery in Rotoiti and a drop in the total number of fish in the lake if these effects do occur.

Smelt also use the Ohau Channel in large numbers and the diversion will have a similar effect on this species. Adult maturing smelt will have problems migrating upstream to spawning areas, and juvenile smelt will drift down the Kaituna River rather than into the lake. How important the Ohau-produced smelt are in relation to those produced from the rest of the lake is unknown. If the Ohau produced smelt make up a significant proportion of the total Rotoiti population, then we can expect to see a decline in food availability for the trout and a drop in trout growth and condition.

It is very difficult to gauge the extent that the diversion might effect the fishery and Fish & Game will be working closely with EBOP, NIWA and the University of Waikato to assess the effects the diversion will have. An investigation of options to minimise or mitigate for any impacts on the fishery will also be important

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## Community Boards - The Way Forward

For some time now, there has been concern that Rotorua District Council has not given adequate consideration to the views of its ratepayers and residents in our rural lakeside communities. Councils are required to have regard to the views of the community, and must give due consideration to these views and preferences when making a decision. They should also provide reasonable access to information in a manner that is appropriate to the needs and preferences of the community.

At last year's rating review, and after apparently disregarding the views of the communities and without adequately explaining the rationale, Council increased the differential rating base for most rural lakeside ratepayers resulting in substantial rate increases for these communities. It is understood this was, in part, a result of persuasive lobbying by larger interest groups.

The rural lakeside communities are today facing property revaluations together with significant capital expenditure for wastewater reticulation, water reticulation, and the costs of lakes restoration. All of these can be expected to add significantly to the rate burden facing landowners. It is clear that the Rotorua Lakes Community needs the best possible representation for the future.

In an endeavour to improve communications with Council and to enable the views of the community to be represented more effectively, a resolution to investigate and actively promote the establishment of a "Rotorua Lakes Community Board" was passed unanimously at the AGM of the Rotorua Combined Lakes Ratepayers Association Inc.

At a subsequent General Meeting of that Association in May, a further resolution to proceed and deliver a proposal to the CEO of the Rotorua District Council to constitute a community board at the earliest opportunity was also passed unanimously.

### What is a Community Board?

A community board is a statutory body with members elected under the Local Electoral Act 2001, and operates at a "community of interest" level providing both a community voice and a mechanism for providing services from a neighbourhood setting.

The board's role is to act as an advocate for the interests of its community; consider and report on all matters referred to it by council; maintain an overview of services provided by council; prepare an annual submission to council for expenditure within the community; communicate with the community and interest groups; and undertake any other responsibilities delegated to it by council.

The current proposal is for a community board to be established for the rural settlements of the Rotorua Lakes.

It is envisaged that this area will include the rural residential communities of Lakes Okareka, Okataina, Rotoehu, Rotoiti, Rotoma, Tarawera, & Tikitapu, and the eastern shore of Lake Rotorua.

There are presently 153 community boards in New Zealand and more councils have constituted community boards than have not. In the past, Rotorua District Council never established community boards in the Rotorua district.

### What are the advantages of having a Community Board?

Because they are closer to communities, community boards have more information about local issues and may be better informed than councils. Delegating responsibilities to community boards can free up councils enabling them to focus on district wide issues.

Community boards are generally working well in New Zealand and it is considered that it is easier for residents to express their views to a local board member, who in turn acts as the resident's advocate and presents it to Council in a more effective way.

The success of a community board depends on the ability of both the board and council to work together with co-operation, mutual trust and respect.

### What are the costs of a Community Board?

The costs of running a community board, which are estimated at around \$40,000 to \$50,000 p.a., are not large and are met 50% from a pool of funds approved by the Remuneration Authority, which is already established within Rotorua District Council, with the balance being paid from general council income. It is envisaged that these costs will be offset to a large degree by releasing Council from a lot of the mundane work currently undertaken by them.

### Who would be on the Community Board?

The members of a community board are normally elected at the triennial local body elections with the next election now due in 2007. It is expected that there would be five or six members (one from each lake?) elected in this way and it is normal practice for a council to appoint one or two councillors to also sit on the board.

### Further Information?

If you would like to find out more about community boards, please feel free to contact:

Ron Marsden (07) 362 8542 gladehse@hotmail.com;

Lindsay Brighthouse (07) 362 4876 linbrig@xtra.co.nz; or

Brentleigh Bond (07) 362 4700 grahamb@clear.net.nz.



## MEMORIES OF MOTUTAWA

You cannot drive through Mourea without seeing Motutawa. The name applies to the peninsula that forms Okawa Bay (full name Te Wai-mimi-o-Kawatapuarangi).

The northern end of the peninsula terminates in a high point on which are clustered many white painted stones clearly marking the cemetery which Mary Stanton now tends to tirelessly.



*An early photo of Motutawa*

Where the cemetery is was once a heavily fortified pa named Te Taiki, presided over by the great Chief Te Takinga.

His name is commemorated in the beautiful carved house at Mourea and an important hapu of this area who call themselves Ngati Te Takinga – The People of Te Takinga. Te Taiki pa saw the final event in the series of wars that saw Te Takinga and his army capture the whole of Te Rotoiti.

At that time it was a stronghold of the ancestors of Ngati Tuhourangi – under the most famous Chief Te Rangipuawhe. Most of those driven from other parts of the lake had gathered there expecting a final assault by Te Takinga's army. However Te Takinga used a different approach.

Travelling at night with only a few followers he landed on the eastern side of the peninsula at Purakau. In the morning he walked alone to Te Taiki.

He entered the pa unmolested and walked up to Te Rangipuawhe, who was eating a meal. By a twist of fate the meal consisted partly of the preserved flesh that had come from the bodies of three of Te Takinga's sons who were killed some time before by Te Rangipuawhe's men at Te Tahuna.

Te Takinga said to Te Rangipuawhe "do not stop eating, make your meal while there is still light." Te Rangipuawhe answered "I have no payment for the deaths of your children, my land you can have and I shall go elsewhere"

Te Rangipuawhe pulled his people together and left the district. They travelled to Tarawera and Rotokakahi. The island in Lake Rotokakahi became one of their important settlements and they named it Motutawa in memory of their former home of Te Rotoiti.

### *Acknowledgements:*

*Don Stafford Landmarks of Te Arawa Vol 2 Rotoiti, Rotoehu, Rotoma*

*Don Stafford Pakiwaitara.*



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## THE LAKE ROTOITI CLASSIC AND WOODEN BOAT ASSOCIATION

Well we have nearly completed our first year of the Lake Rotoiti Classic and Wooden Boat Association. This Association grew from the group that successfully ran the Wooden Boat Parade for 8 years.

After the 2004 parade an Interest meeting was held at Buzz and Patsy Rathbone's house and it was decided to form an association with the participants of the meeting forming the committee. The objects of the Association are to recognise the classic and wooden boats on the lake and to foster the good of the lake. It's been great to see that Lindsay Brighthouse and Brentleigh Bond, with funds from the Wooden Boat Parade, have been able to get DOC to install a composting toilet at Picnic Point.

This follows on from the Wooden Boat Parade group donating Picnic tables around the lake ( Picnic Point, Cherry Bay, Honeymoon bay)

We started the Association off with a fishing contest at Labour Weekend 2004. We had approximately 40 entries. Next event on the calendar was the New Year Parade; the weather wasn't the best but we paraded down the lake from the Okere Arm, Okawa Bay and Otaramarae, finishing at Te Arero Bay.

This year the annual parade was brought forward from the usual Sunday to the Saturday as we did not have a long weekend. We also introduced this year a get together on the Lawn of the Duxton. This was received well and feedback was that everyone had a great time. The parade on the Saturday was transferred from Cherry Bay to Te Arero Bay as a moderate Norwester was blowing, making Cherry Bay exposed.. The Waka crews gave us a stirring Waiata from Eric Cameron's pontoon boat which almost took on the role of a submarine with the number on board. However the sound system on the pontoon boat meant that those on the boats and on the shore could hear it. The picnic at Te Arero Bay was excellent - the bay meant that the boats were close and easily accessible for everyone to view. Chris Laird did a great job awarding merit certificates to deserving boats and crews. Money we have raised from the event has gone towards a new picnic table for picnic point, and Te Arero Bay.

I must thank members of the Association who turned out in March to help clean up Te Arero Bay, Honeymoon Bay, and a small beach at Te Wharangi Pt between Picnic Point and the Hot Pools. We have a number of events planned for the next 12 months and would encourage those that use the lake to join the Association.

I must thank the members of the Association for their support during the year and the committee for all their help throughout the year - Lindsay Brighthouse, Buzz Rathbone, Alan Clark, Bill Fowler, Gus Gardner, our Webmaster and committee member Eric Cameron( check out [www.woodenboatparade.co.nz](http://www.woodenboatparade.co.nz) -a great site, and this is our greatest asset), our Treasurer Brentleigh Bond, and our hard working secretary who does all the work Nigel Brock.

We are planning to have our AGM at 10am on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> of June at the Fire Station at Okere Road. Remember an organization is only as good as its members so please attend and give us feedback.

Grant Cossey  
Commodore Lake Rotoiti Classic and Wooden Boat Association



2005 Annual Boat Parade Te Arero Bay.

### Lake Rotoiti Classic and Wooden Boat Association Inaugural AGM

At an inaugural A G M this Association was formally constituted . A gathering of 35 persons at the Rotoiti Fire Station on June 4 appointed officers and a committee to carry on the functions of the "Parade of the Wooden Boats" which has been a feature of Lake Rotoiti for the last 7 years.

The new Association is dedicated to recognise the interest on Lake Rotoiti on classic boats of all types . Since the "Parade" was started there has been a steady increase of classic boats launching on Rotoiti ,and this new Association will organize regular functions as well as the Waitangi weekend "parade " —for the enjoyment of all members.

The committee is

Commodore Grant Cossey

Vice Commodore Buzz Rathbone

Secretary Nigel Brock

Treasurer Brentleigh Bond

Webmaster Eric Cameron

Committee: Lindsay Brighthouse, Alex Buchanan, Allan

Clark, Rex Charlton, Bill

Fowler, Gus Gardner, William Main, Aaron Martin,

Any persons interested in joining this most interesting Association should contact Sec Nigel Brock (ph 3624764) for further details

Further details are available on the Association website — [www.woodenboatparade.co.nz](http://www.woodenboatparade.co.nz) .

This excellent website by webmaster Eric Cameron pictures the boats [and people] who have inaugurated this new group on our lake



## SUMMARY OF THE TE ARAWA LAKES SETTLEMENT

### Overview

The Te Arawa Lakes Deed of Settlement is the final settlement of all Te Arawa's historical claims relating to the 14 lakes shown in the map on the facing page, resulting from acts or omissions by the Crown prior to 21 September 1992, and any remaining annuity issues from

21 September 1992. It is made up of a package that includes:

- An agreed historical account and Crown acknowledgements, which form the basis for a Crown Apology to Te Arawa;
- Cultural redress, including the transfer of 13 lakebeds with public access protected; and
- Financial and annuity redress.

No private land is involved in the redress, only Crown assets. Existing rights of public access will be preserved.

The benefits of the settlement will be available to all members of Te Arawa, wherever they live.

### Crown Apology

The Crown apologises to Te Arawa for past dealings that breached the Crown's obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi. These include the Crown's failure to legislate for a sufficient number of fishing licences for Te Arawa in 1908 when it promoted legislation to address the problem of hardship, and the Crown's failure to review the annuity paid to Te Arawa as part of the 1922 Te Arawa lakes agreement when it materially lost value as a result of inflation.

### Cultural Redress

1. Recognition of Te Arawa's traditional, historical, cultural and spiritual association with the lakes covered by the settlement.

This includes:

#### 1(a) TRANSFER OF LAKEBEDS

Title to 13 lakebeds will be returned to Te Arawa. The title includes the ownership of the lakebeds (including plants attached to the lakebeds) and subsoil (referred to as the Te Arawa stratum). The title specifically excludes the water column (the space occupied by the water) and the airspace, which will remain in the Crown ownership (referred to as the Crown stratum).

#### 1(b) LAKE OKARO

The Crown has written to the Rotorua District Council encouraging them to come to an agreement with Te Arawa regarding the future status, management and ownership of the 14<sup>th</sup> lake, Lake Okaro, which is currently vested in the Council.

#### 1(c) STATUTORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This registers Te Arawa's special association with an area. Statutory Acknowledgements are recognised under the Resource Management Act and the Historic Places Act.

One Statutory Acknowledgement will cover those parts of the 13 lakes remaining in Crown ownership (i.e. water column and airspace).

#### 1(d) PLACENAMES

The Deed of Settlement will provide for the official amendment of various place names relating to the lakes. The spelling of some names will be changed (e.g. Awahou Point to Te Awahou Point), some sites without official names will be named (e.g. Kaikaitahuna Bay), and some names will become dual names (e.g. Lake Rotorua/Te Rotorua nui a Kahumatamomoe).

The long form of the dual names will be acknowledged as the 'official' place names, but the short form of these place names will be accepted as remaining in common usage and can be used in publications and databases.

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Rotorua Marine Radio – Dave Hutchings	348-7429
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## 2004 Lake Rotoiti Ratepayers and Residents Association Committee

Chair:	Sally Brock	Okere Falls	ph (07) 362-4764 email: te-pohutukawa@paradise.net.nz
Secretary	Richard Wilson	Otaramarae	ph (07) 362-4308 fax (07) 362-4368
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	Phill Thomass	Hinehopu	ph 021-47-44-55 email: lrra@thomass.net
	Geoff Turner	Waiiti	ph (07) 362-7611/(09) 578-3773 email: gjt@fmlaw.co.nz

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