

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Lake Rotoiti Community Association

Held on January 2nd 2016, 10am, at the Pikiaro Rugby League Club, Mourea.

Present

Jim Stanton, Mary Stanton, Nick Miller, Elizabeth Miller, Phill Thomass , Ian McLean(Life Members)
Steve Chadwick (Mayor of Rotorua)
Dave Donaldson, Mike McVicker, Charles Sturt (RDC Councillors)
Tai Eru Morehu,
Doug Leeder (Chair BoPRC), Lyall Thurston (BoPRC Councillor), Andy Bruere (BoPRC)
Geoff Palmer, John Dyer (Rotorua Lakes Community Board)
John Green, QSM (LakesWater Quality Society)
Hilary Prior (Chair), John Bowen, Sherilyn Coney, David Wilson, Claire Miller (LRCA Committee Members)

Approximately 70 people in total were present at the meeting

Apologies

The Hon Todd McClay (MP), Karen Hunt, Glenys Searancke (RLC Councillors), Fraser Wilson, Don Stotter (LRCA Committee Members), Graeme and Helen Prior, Dianne and Donald Stewart, Ann Green, Faye Stamp, Saxon Crawford, Toby Warren, Warren and Jude Webber.

Welcome

Te Heru Tamati of Pikiaro Rugby League Clubrooms provided a Karakia for the meeting.

Selwyn Rikiti, the president of the Club, provided a welcome and gave a brief history of the club and an update on its new direction. It is now moving from being a rugby league club to an inclusive community club. He advised that everyone is invited to become members and take advantage of the facilities.

Hilary Prior opened the meeting and welcomed those attending. Special thanks were given to Steve Chadwick, Dave Donaldson, Doug Leeder, Lyall Thurston, Mike McVicar, Geoff Palmer, Phill Thomass, John Dyer, Ian McLean, Geoff Rice and Andy Bruere for attending the meeting.

Minutes of 2015 Annual Meeting

Paul Prior proposed that the Minutes be accepted, seconded by Nick Miller. Accepted by the meeting.

Matters Arising

Hilary asked Ian McLean to come forward and advise on the progress of the Eastern Rotoiti/Rotoma Sewerage Scheme, the Steering Committee of which he has directed from incept. This group has been an excellent partnership model, working with all community groups, marae and health authorities together with both Councils to reach a consensus.

Ian advised that the Regional Council provided an extra \$4m on top of the \$4.6m already budgeted, which would make it easier for low-income households to afford and support the scheme. A site has been found and agreed upon for the plant, on a plateau behind Emery's Store. Ian gave thanks to

Haumingi 9B/3B owners and trustees for working with the Committee and for providing this site. A small modern plant will be sited here and after sewerage is processed at the site the residue will be discharged to land.

Ian advised that the Biolytics trial sites had been approved, and that he was grateful that property owners had put forward their properties for the trial. Implementation would be complete in a couple of months. The Rotoma part of the scheme will be commissioned in August 2018, and the Rotoiti portion in July 2019. Public meetings will be held at 10am on Sun 10th January 2016 at Rotoiti Sports Club, and at 1pm on 10th January 2016 at Rotoma Community Hall.

The Ngamotu (Doctors' Point) community would be very expensive to connect up to the scheme as it only has 20 baches with very low usage. There are also cultural issues regarding some of the connection options for this community. Therefore the preferred solution for them is composting toilets with grey-water discharge.

Ian summarised that there are now two main challenges ahead – RLC staff have to get the resource consent application in quickly and correctly, and BOPRC have to process it expeditiously in order to retain all funding. Although the proposal agreed on may not be perfect, it is workable with the subsidies.

Hilary said she had been advised that at least one person has volunteered their property at Gisborne Point for the Biolytics trial and confirmed that is much appreciated.

Chairperson's Report

The Chairperson's report is printed on the front page of the latest Newsletter, and all members should have received a copy.

Financial Report

Jim Stanton presented the audited accounts for the year, as neither the Treasurer nor the Auditor were available. There is a small surplus for the year, and the operating balance is healthy. Jim Stanton proposed that the accounts be accepted and this was seconded by Bob Armstrong and approved by the meeting. Thanks to Graeme Prior who acted as auditor and who is prepared to carry out this role again in the next year.

Bob Armstrong expressed concern that the membership level has dropped 25% from 3900 to 3000, and asked whether there was anything to be done to remedy that. Hilary answered that when there were no obvious community concerns that people don't feel the need to be involved, but that she is trying to increase membership where possible. Bob stressed that all members should do their best to increase community membership of the Association, not just leave it to the Chair or Committee.

Election of the Chair

Hilary stood down as Chair and Jim Stanton took the chair temporarily. He thanked Hilary for all her time and dedication given to LRCA during the last few years. Jim nominated Hilary for Chair, and the nomination was seconded by John Green. No further nominations were received and Hilary was elected by acclamation. John expressed the need for retaining institutional knowledge in the Committee due to current issues such as the Wall and the Sewerage Schemes, while at the same time recognising that a succession plan for the future needs to be developed.

Election of Officers

The current Committee members – Don Stotter, John Bowen, Sherilyn Coney, David Wilson, Fraser Wilson, Claire Miller, Nick Miller, Jim Stanton, and Phill Thomass are standing again as Committee members *en bloc*. They were nominated by John Green and seconded by Elizabeth Miller.

Steve Chadwick expressed a vote of thanks to the Chair and Committee for their work during the year.

General Business

- **Diversion Wall**

Andy Bruere gave a brief presentation on the Diversion Wall and its interdependence with other features around the area. The Wall consent expires in late 2017, and it has now been in existence for 12 years.

This has given a good opportunity to track its effect on Lake Rotoiti and also any changes occurring in Lake Rotorua. The water quality in Lake Rotorua has improved significantly over the last 4-5 years and has been within its water quality target for the last 2 years, due primarily to alum dosing on the Puarenga and Utuhina Streams. These alum dosing resource consents also expire in 2018, and it is uncertain whether they will be renewed. The advice from Professor David Hamilton is that without the alum dosing Lake Rotorua would revert to its previous water quality level and have algal blooms in the summer within about two years.

A contract with Beca has been signed for preparing a renewal application for the resource consent for the Wall for a further period of time. In addition to this Councils and the community need to improve the land use impacts around Rotorua if Lake Rotorua's water quality is to improve in a sustainable way. New land use rules will be implemented to replace Rule 11 to bring nitrogen use to a sustainable level.

The Diversion Wall needs to be in place for at least the next 35 years to continue improving Lake Rotoiti's water quality. Currently a significant corrosion issue has arisen with the current wall, and it is unlikely to last the next 35 years, as originally specified. RLC have called in a number of experts to examine why this corrosion has occurred and the possible solutions. It may be due to microbiologically-induced corrosion from bacteria etc., or else to a predisposing factor such as manganese sulphide on the steel which makes it more vulnerable. Likely solutions to the problem are either electrical corrosion protection or a programme of replacement/repair over the years. Opus Consultants are drawing up a report on the options at the moment and will submit this early in the New Year. BoPRC Councillors have already shown commitment to protecting/repairing the wall to last the time required.

- **Out of the Forest by 2019**

Geoff Rice spoke on the programme 'Out of the Forest by 2019'. The Steering Committee was formed 18 months ago to work on the issue of the wastewater currently being discharged into Whakarewarewa Forest, which is currently often exceeding its resource consent conditions. In addition, those consents run out shortly. The steering committee has come to an agreement between all parties on the best method of treatment of the wastewater prior to discharge, and are currently examining two options of discharging the residue, either land-based discharge or more directly into Puarenga Bay. A resource consent will be put in place by September 2016 to discharge wastewater using one or other of the considered options, once a consensus has been reached.

Questions to speakers

- Mike McVicar put a question to Andy Bruere re excessive lake weed growth in Okawa Bay – is there any plan to harvest it this summer? Andy said that he would send that feedback back to BoPRC staff, as he was not aware of the harvesting schedule.
- Graeme Christie asked whether there was any weed spraying going on in the lake at the moment. Andy replied no, since that historically tends to lead to an algal bloom a few months later. Richard Mallinson is the BoPRC staff-member to contact regarding how the decision to spray or not to spray in different areas is reached. John Green said that LWQS held a symposium last year on weeds and their treatment and how management decisions are made. Every lake has different symptoms and weed treatment. LWQS have reached an agreement with LINZ and BoPRC that lake-weed management plans will be drawn up for each lake. Don Atkinson is the LWQS contact person in charge of this. Don commented that some lake weed and pest fish management plans are already in place, others are still to be drawn up. A new chemical, Endothall, is in process of being consented for use by BoPRC, which will add another tool to the toolbox. This is an ongoing process to get this to a satisfactory end – thanks to BoPRC for their part in working through this.
- Peter Stevens asked for clarification on the potential release site for the Rotorua wastewater – this is still being decided but Puarenga (Sulphur Bay, Lake Rotorua) is the preferred option.

Dave Donaldson commented that the waste water treatment process is being improved by upgrading the plant to full MBR, and that it will be filtered down to 0.4 microns followed by UV sterilisation. The proposal is for the resulting treated wastewater to be discharged onto rock on the Sanatorium Reserve then allowed to flow across and into Puarenga Bay. The other considered option is piping to a 20ha rapid infiltration bed, as RLC haven't been able to find 600ha anywhere in the lake catchment to replace the Forest as a land discharge option. The wastewater would need to be applied to the infiltration bed at the annual equivalent of 8m rainfall on top of Rotorua's current rainfall, and would add considerable extra cost to provide.

- Peter Carr-Smith asked what technological advantages will the Rotoiti treatment plant have and will there be similar emphasis on improvement as the Rotorua plant is receiving. Ian McLean responded that the same technology will be used in both places, just on a different scale between Rotoiti and Rotorua, and that it is the very best currently available anywhere.

Dave Donaldson said that Geoff Rice has been on one of the committees looking at this problem but there have been a large number of committees – cultural impact, technical advisory etc., and that altogether a large amount of work and commitment has been done on the issue.

Other community groups

- Grant Cossey announced that the Classic and Wooden Boat Association boat parade will be on the 6th February, and Dinghy Day will be on the 16th January. There will also be a Social at the Pikiako Clubrooms tonight from 4pm, if anyone wishes to attend.
- Hilary notified members that the West Rotoiti Volunteer Fire Force had a spare VHF radio, although it was missing an aerial and transformer. She had agreed that LRCA would be happy to pay for the extra parts and now the radio is housed at the Manupirua Hot Springs so if any

emergencies occur in that area then they can easily radio to emergency services and the Fire Brigade's rescue boat can respond quickly.

- Phill emphasised that the Pikiāo Community Club membership is \$25 and so if anyone wished to join that it would be a good investment in the local community.

Cynthia Armstrong expressed her thanks to the RLC for finally finishing off the footpath from Emery's Store to Gisborne Point.

Hilary said that she had appreciated the open communication when working with RLC – Steve Chadwick and Dave Donaldson have made this much easier, and she thanked them very much.

Meeting closed at 11am.