



THE NEWSLETTER

**Lake Okareka
Community Association (Inc.)**

**July, August & September 2015
www.lakeokareka.org**

The Newsletter

of the

Lake Okareka Community Association (LOCA)

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DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

The views and opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the
LOCA Committee.

Front cover:

Josh Bowyer holds for the Best Condition Factor Trophy which he won at the Lake Okareka Winter Fishing Competition. This was held on 18 and 19 July 2015. Please see pages 22 to 25 for more information and photos from the weekend of fishing.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE—SEPTEMBER 2015



Greetings from the LOCA committee and a welcome to spring at Lake Okareka.

The good news is that steady progress is being made with the **new walkway from the Boyes Beach reserve to the DOC camp** and we look forward to it's opening before the year end. This has been a great example of what can be achieved by committed and competent volunteers and in

this case the leadership of Brian Law and Mike Goodwin.

It is also pleasing to note that Council will be installing reticulated toilets in the Waka Arma club rooms which will take pressure off the Boyes Beach toilets as it is expected the new walkway will prove to be well utilised by holiday makers and of course the campervans.

The tourism industry is forecasting a busy tourist season this summer as a result of the low NZ dollar so the revenue we receive from the two camp grounds can be expected to be buoyant subject of course to reasonable weather.

The new financial year for the Rotorua Lakes Council requires some major decisions on.

Refuse Disposal and Recycling. Consultation with the communities of Tarawera and Okareka continues and hopefully we will have some options suitable for bush settlements where there are large numbers of holiday homes and rentals. Also important to us is aesthetically pleasing rubbish/recycling containers in the tourist public reserves at Tarawera, Okareka and Tikitapu.

Representation Review. The committee's decision is now out for public consultation and the outcome will be of interest as it recommends a reduction in Councillors from 12 to 10, all of rural Rotorua having a Community Board and giving Community Boards more involvement in decision making. This decision will come into affect at the Council elections in October next year.

Review of the Rotorua Lakes A zone. This will be important for property owners in the "A" zone. The lakes in this zone are Okataina, Tikitapu, Rotokakahi, Rotomahana, Okaro, Tarawera & Okareka. These lakes are considered to be of national importance and are listed in the RMA which became operative in 2005. It covers a number of issues including monitoring cultural heritage, national heritage, settlements and developments, water quality and interestingly the avoidance of intrusive noise levels!!

Cell Phone coverage. The consortium of Vodafone, Chorus and Spark have at long last confirmed a suitable site for the Cell Phone tower at the top of Millar Road and it now only requires Council approval.

As always we welcome comments on any issues of interest to our residents and property owners.

Geoff Palmer Chairman

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LAKE OKAREKA TENNIS CLUB

Daylight saving starts 27 September so it is almost time for spring tennis!

Subscriptions 2015/2016 year:

The subscription is a family sub for the year from 1 October to 30 September 2016 and is again held at \$100. Payment is due by 1 October. New members are welcome.

Payment is requested into the Club account at Westpac Bank 03 – 1552 – 0130369 – 00. Reference “Sub” and your family name. **Please e-mail confirmation of the deposit** to avoid any unidentified deposits. Also include in your e-mail current contact details including address and telephone number.

Keys will be made available to paid up members at the Friday coaching sessions. If you are not attending please contact John (362 8282) so that a key can be made available for collection in October. The lock to the court will be changed by 1 November.

Spring coaching for children starts on Friday afternoon 16 October (the end of the first week of term 4) and runs for eight weeks including Labour Weekend – due to the number of weekends before Christmas. The sessions are:

Session 1:	4pm to 4.45pm	for players up to 7 years
Session 2:	4.45pm to 5.45pm approx	for players up to 9 years
Session 3:	Approx 5.45pm to 7.00pm	for 10 years and over

By Friday 10 October could you please register your interest by advising the names and ages of children and indicate which session they are likely to attend. The coach may move a child into another session depending on ability.

The cost is \$40 per child for session 1. For sessions 2 and 3 the cost is \$50 per child. If numbers need to be limited it will be on a first come first served basis. Please pay the sub for coaching separately from the sub and put the name of child as reference.

The AGM is scheduled for 30 October at 5.30pm. Nominations for the Committee are invited.

Weekly Tennis starts on 21 October from 6pm for casual adults. New players welcome.

Contacts for the tennis club are John 362 8282; Hongli 362 8106; Gert 362 8835 or johnbattersby@xtra.co.nz.



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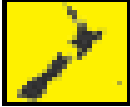
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GET READY TO SHAKEOUT!

Everyone, everywhere should know the right action to take before, during and after an earthquake.

Thursday 15 October is the **International ShakeOut Day of Action**. New Zealand will be the first country to participate this year, at 9:15am!

We're aiming to get 1.5 million New Zealanders to [sign up](#) to take part – which should also make ours the biggest (per capita) ShakeOut drill in the world! Go to www.shakeout.govt.nz to register!

Once you've signed up we'll keep you up to date with all the information you need to take part in the Drop, Cover and Hold drill.

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The Lake Okareka Volunteer Rural Fire Force

Hi all

The Lake Okareka Rural Fire Force is now part of Pumicelands, the new enlarged rural fire district. Nothing much has changed as we still operate and attend the same incidents as we have in the past. We look forward to working with Pumicelands and the Rotorua Lakes Council into the future.

Fortunately, we have had a quiet winter with no chimney fires or serious car accidents, but ...be warned ... one of my daughters is going for her Learner's Licence soon!

Although we have had some respite from the frosty weather and icy roads, the high winds and heavy rain that we have had a lot of over the last month or so highlights the need to be vigilant when driving amongst the tall trees on the sides of the road. One area in particular is the large pines around the Black Shack on Tarawera Road. One of those trees came down at around 12.30am one night. The trunk spanned the entire road and was approximately windscreen height. Luckily, no one drove into it and, after a few hours, we successfully cleared the road.

On the training side, most of the Fire Force members attended a 4x4 driving course recently, learning valuable skills not just for driving utes in difficult terrain but also our 4x4 fire appliance.

Spring is now here and with Daylight Saving nearly upon us, it's a good time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms and check they are in working order.

For anyone wanting to contact the Lake Okareka Rural Fire Force, please phone me on 3628874 or go to our website: www.okarekaruralfire.com.

Phil Muldoon
Chief Fire Officer



LAKE OKAREKA PRESCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Learning this month at Preschool

We have been given some lovely woollen blankets for the children to sew their own designs from a drawing to an item of their choice. We have had a scarf, house, pillows, hat and many others.

The children have made their own Father's Day cards featuring underpants to follow on from our recent alien

underpants story books.

Outside play has included confidence courses designed with the children themselves, as children challenge their own developing physical skills. We have also enjoyed carpentry with our own designs and other fun activities such as gloop and baking too. Spring has come and the children are now learning about spring time and what the change of season means to the world around us.

Hall

The hall has recently had a clean of the outside and gutters. Our new grass by the log cabin has established itself now and looks great.

Preschool has now earned the certificate for being a breast feeding friendly environment, after we have included resources to our parent information packs, supporting new mums and recognising areas within the preschool for mums to be with baby.

Nutrition evening with Jasmin Jackson of the Heart Foundation

On Tuesday 1st September we held a parent evening to hear more about healthy food for pre-schoolers and what to look for on food labels. This was a beneficial evening for us all and we were pleased to have our new computer screen to view Jasmin's presentation. The Nutrition evening was so popular we may have another evening with Jasmin soon. We are well on our way to achieving the Heart Foundation Heart Award.



Recycling paper and cardboard

We appreciate all your donations of paper and cardboard reducing the carbon footprint. Our bin is emptied on Thursday's and we appreciate support from our community.

We are now taking enrolments for term four and would like to hear from any parents who may be interested in coming in for an information pack and to find out about any available spaces.

We also have a Wednesday playgroup for those parents wanting to visit with their child and to find out more of what we offer. Call 362 8606

www.lakeokarekapreschool.co.nz or like us on Facebook.

Teaching team—Debbie, Leslie and Davina



DABCHICK UPDATE

It is two years since we set up our first shoreline trap line of twelve traps. DOC gave ten traps to the Dabchick counting group and Land Care had a couple. We now have 45 that cover the lakeshore margin along the walkway, Acacia Rd, Taumaihi Pt, Loop Rd and Boyes Beach. The traps have consistently been checked weekly in all weathers by Rod Stace, Mike Goodwin, Dave Scott and Mike Vincent. At the time of writing we had trapped 396 rats, 22 ferrets, 51 hedgehogs and 2 feral cats, the main predators of young birds and eggs. This is good for the Dabchicks (Wewia) New Zealand's only endemic grebe of which there are only approximately 2000.

Hopefully by providing good nesting habitat which includes predator control, preserving and enhancing flora, reducing lake level fluctuation and not disturbing the birds, Okareka can increase the overall population. There will no doubt be collateral spin off for other birds such as scaup, coots, white heads, mallards, grey warblers, bellbird and tui which we see when checking the traps.

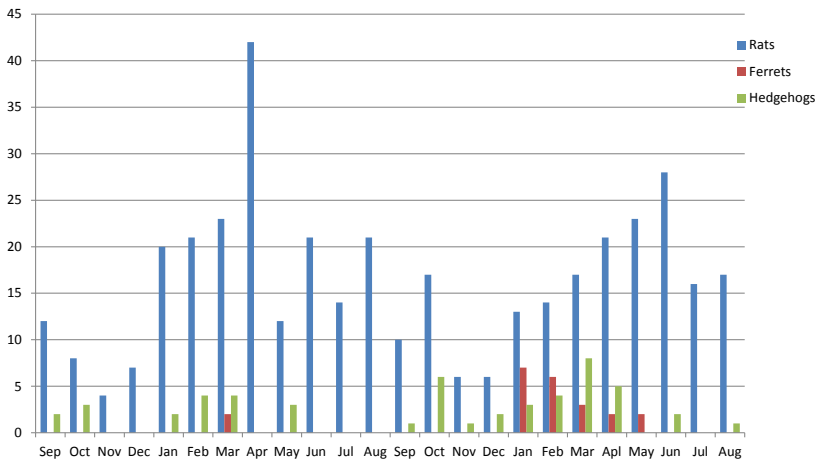
Over the past few weeks the dabchicks have been returning to the lake (where they go in the winter is a mystery, northern hemisphere grebes go to the coast because the shallow lakes they live at freeze over). Breeding pairs can be seen around the lake and in particular near the jetty, along the walkway and Boyes Beach.

We would wish to extend our traps further along the walkway, and to new areas such as the Boyes Beach to DOC camp walkway and around the wetland on Miller Rd. Also at Labour Weekend we are going to approach home owners in the Loop Rd, Calder Rd and Steep St areas to see if we can get traps or bait stations on lake side properties.

If you would like to know more about what we are doing or would like to help please ring Mike Vincent on 3628 376.



Trap Catches Sept 2013 - Aug 2015



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REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2015

Landcare Volunteers have had a very busy few months undertaking winter plantings. These plantings have been done in the following areas:

- Taumaihi reserve, at the end of Acacia Road
- an area along the lake outlet canal for Bay of Plenty Regional Council following the replacement of the Lake Okareka outlet pipeline
- in the reserve at the start of the Lake Okareka walkway
- opposite Benn Road in Tikitapu Scenic Reserve - this was a joint Landcare Okareka, Rotorua Forest & Bird and Rotorua Botanical Society planting working bee of around 1000 plants provided by Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Department of Conservation - plants were all in the ground in 2 1/2 hours and that time included a morning tea break!
- in the reserve area near the entrance to the DOC camp, Millar Road.

We still have some more pohutukawa plants to plant out in the area near the shade shelter, to replace some of the kowhai that are not doing very well. The pohutukawa plants that LO put in this area last year are doing really well. So we thought we would continue with this plant replacement programme.

Landcare Okareka hopes to hold litter pick ups within the settlement and roads leading into Lake Okareka during "Keep New Zealand Beautiful" week 14th September to 20th September 2015. We will send an email out to ask for help with this. Mostly the settlement area is quite tidy as far as litter is concerned.

We are concerned though to observe that some property owners/occupiers at Lake Okareka have been **leaving garden prunings** on roadsides outside their property, or **dumping garden waste** into reserves, rights-of-way or onto next door neighbours' land. Please think twice before you do this! Dumping of garden waste on public land is actually an offence that attracts a fine from Dept of Conservation or the District Council! This is how garden plants (like "wandering willie" or *Tradescantia*) become problem weeds in reserves. Some volunteers are spending a lot of time and resources in trying to control and eliminate weeds in local reserves. Please don't be a community member who adds to these problems.

If you are keen to help with any Landcare Okareka working bees, we would appreciate any time that you have to spare. Working Bees will continue to happen on the 4th Saturday of the month (unless otherwise notified). Watch out for the sign boards to go up - and please feel free to come and help.

Sandra Goodwin, Secretary, Landcare Okareka, phone 362 8865 or email sgoodwin@actrix.co.nz



Volunteers from Rotorua branch Forest & Bird, Rotorua Botanical Society and Landcare Okareka enjoy a well earned morning tea break at the recent planting working bee in Tikitapu Scenic Reserve



Volunteers from Rotorua branch of Forest & Bird, Landcare Okareka and Rotorua Botanical Society hard at work planting native trees into Tikitapu Scenic Reserve, opposite Benn Rd

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NEW LAKE OKAREKA WALKING TRACK REPORT—SEPTEMBER 2015

Volunteers are continuing with weed clearance work on the proposed line of the walking track between Boyes beach and the Department of Conservation beach and camp off Millar Road. Working Bees are held every first Saturday of the month. Once daylight saving returns on Sunday 27th September we will begin Thursday afternoon/evening working bees from around 4.30 - 5.00pm through to around 6 - 6.30 pm. Please email me (Sandra) sgoodwin@actrix.co.nz or phone Mike or myself 362 8865 - and I will add your name to the email list. You will then know when the next working bee for the track is happening. You can also check the website www.lakeokareka.org for up and coming working bee dates.

Weed clearance is currently happening in the area between Boyes beach and the Millar Road stream. On the other side of this small stream, the land becomes Lake Okareka Scenic Reserve, which is Department of Conservation managed land. There should be no dogs being taken along this track whether on leads or off, within the Lake Okareka Scenic Reserve. The rules regarding dogs in scenic reserves are quite specific - no dogs at any time. The same applies to dogs on the new track coming from the DOC camp and heading out to the "jumping off" rocks. We are waiting for some new signs from DOC for the track, which will remind people about this area being Lake Okareka Scenic Reserve.

Once the weed clearance is completed, work will then begin on putting in drainage along the track, where required, and other work related to removal of top soil and duff and levelling the track which is called benching - a lot of this benching work has been completed on the DOC camp side of the wetland. Eventually the track will have timber edging which will be filled with compacted gravel to create a good hard all weather surface. Drainage materials, timber edging, gravel, hireage of equipment to cart gravel and compact it, and so on - will all be paid for from profits made by the DOC camp which LOCA volunteers help run (see page 18).

In the meantime, we are awaiting hearing further about funding requests to help pay for the materials and construction of timber boardwalks in the lower lying wetland areas and bridges over the numerous small streams.



Hard working Volunteers - L to R: Katharine Oliver, Mark McKenna, Andy Eastcott, Christine Caughey, Brian Law



LOCA DOC CAMP

Lake Okareka Community Assn is in need of more volunteers to help look after the Department of Conservation camp up Millar Road. If you have no morning commitments such as work or young children, from 7.30am for about an hour, we would appreciate hearing from you if you are able to offer your support – or if you are able to help with the evening shift from around 6.30 - 7.00pm to about 7.30 - 8.00 pm. We would love to hear from you.

Both “shifts” involve “checking in” campers and making sure they have all paid, checking and cleaning toilets, picking up any rubbish or litter and just keeping an eye on the place. LOCA DOC Camp volunteers are offered some form of reward in recognition for their efforts. We find it easier to work in teams of 2 people, and the teams are usually rostered on for a week at a time, but we do have some flexibility with others filling in if the current camp wardens have another engagement for a night in their week that they are rostered “on duty”.

Profits from the camp are going into improvements at the camp and conservation activities around Lake Okareka. In the last 12 months LOCA has paid a local contractor to lower and re-surface the camp sites. This has been much appreciated by campers – having more level sites. There has also been much less erosion from the camp sites of fine dusty material onto the roadway at the camp – this is appreciated by campers and camp wardens alike! Money is also going into the pest trapping project around the lake edges. A large project which will take a lot of the funds raised by the camp is the establishment of the new walking track between Boyes beach and the DOC camp up Millar Road. This walking track project was envisaged by DOC staff when the campground agreement between Lake Okareka Community Assn and DOC was signed off.

If you are interested to help with this activity – or would like to know more please contact Sandra Goodwin 362 8865 or Geoff Palmer 3628 379.

 <p>CAPERS EPICUREAN</p>	<p>Breakfast Lunch Dinner</p> <p>Ph 348 8818 www.Capers.co.nz</p>
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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOUR—RICHARD AND SIOBHAN HUNT

Richard and Siobhan Hunt emigrated from their last place of residence, Durban, South Africa fifteen years ago. They were attracted to the tranquil beauty of Lake Okareka and settled here.

Richard has an engineering and environmental background and has been involved in various training courses with USAR (Urban Search and Rescue). He was accepted by the United Nations Development Programme through the Swedish Contingency Agency to assess buildings for the purpose of demolition in Nepal. He flew to Nepal on 30 June for a three month stint.

The first week was spent in Kathmandu attending meetings and becoming au fait with the set up. He had time to look around the Tamil area (CBD) which is mainly a tourist area and a lot quieter than the rest of the city consisting of narrow roads and alleyways, tall buildings crammed with buses, motor bikes and cars all blowing their horns at milling pedestrians.

Richard has spent time in the rural areas with six other Nepalese engineers to assess the ever growing list of government damaged buildings. He has found the work interesting but felt it was good to get back to Kathmandu where there was a better supply of water and electricity. The accommodation in the rural areas tended to be overrun with cockroaches and fleas.



Richard keeps fit running and cycling and is



very hands on around the house and garden. He has also assisted LOCA with various engineering aspects. Siobhan's interests as well as gardening are cycling, volunteering at SPCA and Age Concern, swimming (in summer) and art work.

Fenella, a noble lady

Elegant, earthy
there's nothing bog-
standard about this
'lady of the lake'



Our People

Jill Nicholas

IT'S NOT often Our People's lost for words but how to describe Fenella Playne has us stumped. Our best effort's "unique", but that lacks the required oomph for this "oomphiest" of people.

Some will label her a social maven, others may consider her a mite grand, a number will opt for the bog-standard "pillar of the community", but bog-standard's the last thing Fenella Playne is.

She's provocatively outspoken, her wit's dry, she does wonderful floral art, wears hats with the elegance of an era long vanished and gives, gives, gives.

With its stunning views across Lake Okareka, Fenella's home is always open for charities needing a fundraising venue.

She adores people visiting her garden and if someone's nursing a problem, this former marriage guidance counsellor's the go-to person for a sound, common sense solution.

Meld that little lot together and it's understandable why any appropriate adjective remains elusive.

She's no help, it doesn't occur to her she's "one of a kind", someone so down to earth she's not adverse to dispensing a rat with a spade.

How earthy can one get? Who but Fenella would willingly write publicly about her "old bat" of a mother-in-law walking in unannounced on her only child making love to his new bride?

It's a story she's happy to repeat here. Fenella married into the Playne family at 20, her husband, Nat (full name Fitzarthur Charles Nathaniel Playne), 18 years her senior.

"He had a moustache, looked like Clark Gable and drove a Humber Super Snipe."

He asked her to "the pictures" the day they met, "then had to go to the club [Rotorua Gentleman's Club] for Dutch courage".

Within months they'd married. His mother joined them for part of their honeymoon.

"She turned our marriage into a threesome — we'd all go out together, me in the back seat."

City girl Fenella and Nat moved into the cottage beside the Playnes' far more imposing home.



GRAND: Fenella Playne is hard to describe but easy to find fascinating — and is certainly not one

How the Playnes came to own the property is a fascinating peek into the district's history. With close links to Britain's aristocratic Beaufort family, Nat's father, a member of the Royal Geographical Society, arrived in New Zealand in the early 1900s to compile an encyclopaedia. After marrying a New Zealander (the dreaded "old bat"), his next stop was India, Nat was born there.

In 1937, the Playnes returned, flew over 5000 barren Okareka acres (2023 hectares), buying it for a pound (\$2) an acre. Nat was left to break it in.

When his father died, he was buried on the property the Playnes named Longfords. Nat's interred there too "on a rise above the parsnips, we put Nat down 10 feet so I can go on top," Fenella the realist imparts.

She takes us back to her life as a young bride living in virtual isolation. "We only went into town on Thursdays; I didn't

have my own car until I was 35."

Within a month of marriage she was pregnant, her second child born 18 months after the first. "Mrs Playne said we were breeding like rabbits . . . it took me five years to call her Mama."

It didn't bode well for a warm relationship knowing "Mama" kept pictures, on her mantelpiece, of three girls she considered more suitable marriage material for her son.

"I wasn't from the landed gentry, my father was a bank manager, worse, I was a Roman Catholic."

Fenella still smarts over her mother-in-law's reaction to her Grace Kelly-like wedding gown. "She sniffed and said 'the zip's down the wrong side.'"

There's a flash of her wicked humour when she assures us she also wore a long veil . . . "well, I was a virgin, after all".

Other "Mama" insults followed over the years.

y for noble causes



to play by the rules when it comes to her "old bat" mother-in-law.

PHOTO/STEPHEN PARKER

After the arrival of her third child, Fenella began to connect with the community she's become a cornerstone of.

"I realised I needed to get involved, the Okareka Hall had just been built, a lot of Playne hoggets helped fund it, I started a Sunday school there."

Spinning followed. "I loved it, Dorothy Pickernell taught me to spin among the coal range, babies, nappies."

She joined the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB).

"I loved that too, I think everyone should be taught listening skills, how to manage money constructively."

Through the CAB, she heard a search was on for marriage guidance counsellors. "I didn't think I'd be accepted, I was interviewed by a doctor only interested in my sex life because my husband was so much older; a social worker said my voice was too posh, I said

'I sound exactly the same driving the Land Rover in a Swannie and the stock don't mind.'" She was accepted.

Fenella was to the forefront 15 years ago, when St Luke's church established its Growing Through Grief programme for youngsters dealing with death or divorce.

"People don't realise separation has a greater grieving process than death."

Operating on the "look good, feel good" principle, Fenella and friend Helen Rodwell became make-up artists for Queen Elizabeth Hospital patients "so they'd forget their aches and pains — feel better about themselves".

The dictum "helping people's like reframing a picture" drives her.

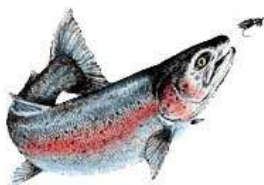
"It's not about telling anyone what to do but constructively helping them help themselves."

Anyone have an appropriate adjective yet?

Fact box

- Fenella Playne (nee Clayton)
- Born: Palmerston North, 1935.
- Education: St Joseph's Convent School from 6-17, Karitane Hospital training.
- Family: One son, two daughters, three grandsons, three granddaughters.
- Interests: Family "they're what I'm proudest of"; people, flowers, garden, church (now an Anglican attending St Luke's), assisting charities.
- Reflecting on her life: "It's been fascinating."
- Personal philosophy: "Learn to love yourself then you can learn to love other people."

THANK YOU TO THE DAILY POST FOR SUPPLYING THIS ARTICLE.



LAKE OKAREKA FISHING CLUB

The Lake Okareka Fishing Club's winter Tournament held on 18 and 19 July attracted 67 entrants and 80 fish were weighed in.

Many thanks to VIP Realty (Dave Umbers) for sponsoring this tournament and also to Telfer Marine (Sean Bowyer) for supplying some prizes. Also thanks to our weigh masters John Herbert and Eben Herbert.

If anyone has any fresh ideas regarding the fishing competitions or is interested in joining the committee please contact Dean Foster on 3628 960.



Prize winners:

Biggest Bag Individual

Biggest Bag Team

Biggest Bag Family

Biggest Bag Junior

Heaviest Trout – Adult Male

Heaviest Trout – Adult Female

Heaviest Trout – Junior

Best Condition Factor

Eben Herbert—11 fish

Herbert-Cox—26 fish

Red Setters—11 fish

Liam Gatenby—6 fish (6.31kg)

John Herbert—1.65kg

Aroha Thompson—1.52kg

Chris Everitt—1.55kg

Josh Bowyer—45.65



*Heaviest Trout Junior
Chris Everitt*







TIKITAPU SCENIC RESERVE PEST CONTROL PROGRAMME



The programme for the 2015 Tikitapu Pest Control has proceeded as planned, with the Pindone and Feratox ® (cyanide) baits put out into the bait stations on 7 and 8 August. Stations were topped up two weeks later and it is intended to clear the stations of any remaining bait on September 20 and 21.

At this stage we have found slightly more possum carcasses than the total for last year, and expect to find more when the stations are cleared. Post bait monitoring will then be carried out to see how successful the baiting has been in reducing rat and possum numbers.

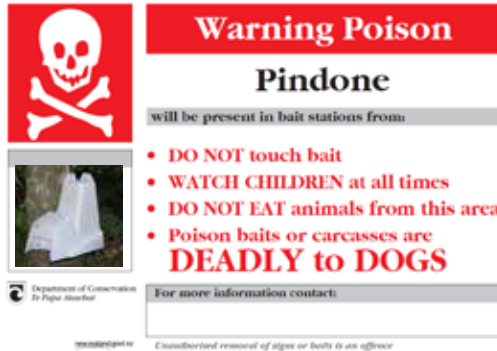
Although there should be no bait in the stations after the end of September, the area must be treated with caution until the signs are removed, approximately the end of January.

The pesticides used are effective and safe when properly handled. The use of bait stations allows for the pesticide to be made available to target pest species while at the same time restricting accessibility to native and non-target species. However there is a risk of poisoning to humans and non-target animals such as dogs if the bait is handled carelessly or eaten. Poisoning can occur through eating baits or poisoned animals.

The risk to dogs from pesticide in carcasses will remain until the carcasses have decomposed, which can be up to or more than six months. These risks can be eliminated by following these simple rules:

- DO NOT handle any bait
- DO NOT allow CHILDREN to wander unsupervised in the treatment area
- DO NOT bring DOGS into this area
- DO NOT take ANIMALS for eating

The presence of warning signs indicates that pesticide residues may still be present in baits or animals. The removal of signs will tell you that you can resume normal activities in the area. If in doubt, check with DOC.



What do I do if I suspect poisoning?

Always contact your:

Local doctor, or
Local hospital or
National Poisons Centre 0800 764 766

There have been two successful planting working bees:

- a combined one with Forest and Bird, Rotorua Botanical Society and Landcare Okareka when an area opposite Benn Rd was planted
- assisting Kiwi Conservation Club to extend their planted area at Hamurana.

There have been many comments regarding the increase in bird song, particularly tui. Bird counts will be repeated in November.

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who has helped at the working bees. We were very fortunate to have several DoC staff join our working bee during Conservation Week and their presence was greatly appreciated.

I am always delighted to have new people to add to the volunteer list. Please contact me if you would like more information or to be added to the list.

Frances Blakely jandfblakely@gmail.com Ph 362 8480



LAKE TARAWERA PLAYCENTRE

This term has seen many adventures for our children. We have enjoyed our walks past the stream to see the trout spawning, to the community garden and then following the lake edge back to Playcentre. We were even lucky to enjoy morning tea at a local, Margaret's beautiful cottage, with all her statues and blossoms.

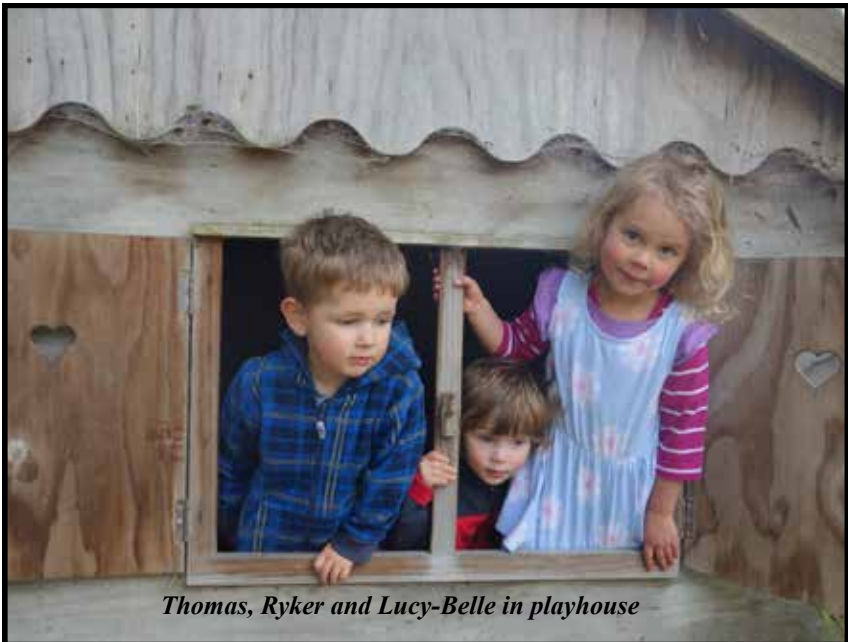
We are looking forward to many more outings as the weeks turn warmer. We would love any new people to come and join us. Sessions are Monday 9:30am till 12. Call Vanessa 3628 705 for more details.



Ryker, Lucy-Belle and Thomas looking at the trout



Thomas and Lucy-Belle find a panda



Thomas, Ryker and Lucy-Belle in playhouse

TIMM'S POSSUM TRAPS—SEPTEMBER 2015



Are you noticing leaves on garden or vegetable plants that appear to have been chewed? What about new leaves on roses? Or are you hearing possum fighting noises at night?

These pests will be getting active again around the Lake Okareka settlement. We have some Timm's Possum Traps available to help you catch and kill these pests. These Bay of Plenty Regional Council funded Timm's Possum Traps, are available on loan to any Lake Okareka residents, if you contact Sandra & Mike Goodwin 362 8865.

The Lake Okareka community has 10 traps which were funded as “loan traps” by Bay of Plenty Regional Council. These traps have been borrowed at various times by members of the community. If you are having possum problems – maybe eating fruit or flowers or they are making a nuisance of themselves at night – and you would like to borrow a Timm's trap, give us a call.

If you are not familiar with the “Timm's trap”, we will provide you with some instructions about how to use the traps. We will also give you some advice about what seems to work best as “bait” - such as apple with cinnamon, or apple and peanut butter. If you can keep a note of any possums caught please pass that on to us when you return the trap. We like to know for our records what is being caught around the place and we can also pass that on to the regional council.

For more information or to borrow a trap, please contact Mike and Sandra Goodwin, phone 362 8865 or email sgoodwin@actrix.co.nz



MINI SKIPS
ROTORUA

175 Okareka Loop Road
RD5, Rotorua

BRIAN MOORE
Ph: 362 8576
Mobile: 021 741 446

RAT BAIT AND BAIT STATIONS—SPRING 2015

As I am sure most of you will be aware, spring has now arrived. The birds are beginning to build nests and now is the time to get into rat baiting – as some of you have already done recently. Thank you to everyone who has purchased rat bait stations over the past 12 months.

Ditrac rat bait provided by Bay of Plenty Regional Council is, once again available to individual property owners, to support enhancing the biodiversity at Lake Okareka. We are especially interested in getting even more lake-side properties involved with rat bait stations. We believe that the results Lake Tarawera are getting with the increase in numbers of dab chicks could be due in part to their successful rat bait programme. They have many lakeside properties there involved. If you are interested, but maybe feel that you do not come to your property often enough to keep the bait station full, please contact us. We may be able to work out a partnering system with someone who lives here permanently, and is prepared to keep your bait station filled.

Ditrac is a poison, and care must be taken when using it.

How to Use Ditrac Bait:

It is recommended that bait be fed in a type of bait station, fitted with a locating rod, that does not allow the rats to carry baits away to be stored. The baits have holes in them and they thread onto the rod. Rats and mice eat the bait in the bait station. The bait station protects the bait from the weather. It means also that bait cannot be eaten by non-target species such as birds, dogs, cats and children.

Bait stations are available by contacting Mike and Sandra Goodwin 362 8865 or email sgoodwin@actrix.co.nz. We have a new type of lockable bait station, like a small suitcase. They also have locating pins for the bait. Cost of these is \$20

Do you have a bait station already? That's great if you do. When you collect your bait you will need to confirm your name and address and the address of the bait station. We need to update our data base about bait stations and where they are located throughout Okareka – and many thanks to everyone who has done this so far.

How do I get bait now? Bait is available in labelled, zip lock bags, containing 12 rat baits. This is enough bait to fill one bait station 2 times during a month. Bait stations should usually not be filled more than twice during a month, otherwise you are wasting bait and feeding potentially dead rats and mice.

If you require the bait or a lockable bait station for \$20, please contact Mike & Sandra Goodwin phone 362 8865, 2 Pryce Road or Rod Stace phone 362 8523, 30 Summit Road.

Please phone first to arrange a suitable time to collect bait or a bait station.



VOLUNTEER LAKE WARDEN REPORT—SEPTEMBER 2015

With warmer and more settled weather on the way, and the possibility of a hot, dry summer more people will be out using the lake. Daylight saving starts again on Sunday 27th September, so that will mean longer days are coming for people to enjoy a paddle in your kayak, canoe or waka; water skiing, wakeboarding or biscuiting; or a trout fishing trip. Trout fishing season opens again on some of the Rotorua lakes on 1st October; time for a new trout fishing licence as well. With all of these possible activities looming now is a really good time to get your boat and all of your gear, including life jackets, checked before the summer arrives.

Here are some useful reminder type questions and points for water safety on the lakes:

- Do you have enough life jackets of the appropriate size for all of the persons likely to use your boat this summer?
- Have the children out grown last year's life jacket? Do they need a larger size which will offer them better floatation?
- Do you have the correct lights for your boat? This includes kayaks, waka ama and dinghies - if you are going to be using your vessel after sunset in the evening or in the early mornings before sunrise - the hours of darkness.

Are all of the lights on your vessel working?

You can check the daily sunset and sunrise times on the website or in the local paper in the weather section. These times change daily. Towing anyone - water skiing, biscuiting or wake boarding - is not permitted in the hours of darkness, that is from sunset in the evening to sunrise in the morning.

The "it takes three to ski" rule attracted quite a few breaches of the Navigation & Safety Bylaws last summer. This will continue to be a zero tolerance infringement for this coming season. If you are towing someone there **must** be at least one observer in the boat over the age of 10 years. Both the operator of the boat and the person being towed can be infringed, if there is no observer over the age of 10 years on board the vessel.

The 5 knot rule: this is still one of the biggest areas of concern on most of the Rotorua Lakes. Please make yourself familiar with this rule, especially in relation to kayaks and swimmers. The rule reads as follows under the Current Bay of Plenty Regional Navigation Safety Bylaw 2010:

[Section 3.2 Speed of Vessels](#)

3.2.1 No person shall propel or navigate a vessel (including a vessel towing a person or object) at a proper speed exceeding 5 knots:

- (a) within 50 metres of any other vessel, raft, floating structure or person in the water; or
- (b) within either 200 metres of the shore or of any structure, or on the inshore side of any row of buoys marking a 5 knot speed restriction: (In the Rotorua Lakes these are large yellow buoys) or

- (c) within 200 metres of any vessel or floating structure that is flying a Flag A (diver's blue and white flag) of the International Code of Signals.

Here at Lake Okareka all of the Acacia arm from the jetty and boat ramp out to the far line of large yellow 5 knot buoys, is a less than 5 knots area. There are 5 knot buoyed areas around in front of properties on Loop Road to the Steep Street reserve. Here there is a "No boats, swim only" buoyed area from Steep Street back along to about 1/2 of Boyes beach. The other side of Acacia Road peninsula in front of the walkway has a large length of the lake that has 5 knot buoys which extends down to meet the orange and black buoy that denotes the Silver beach Water Ski Access Lane. Boats should not be doing more than 5 knots on the landward side of that line of buoys.

The phone number for the Bay of Plenty Regional Council Maritime team is 07 921 3375. Please feel free to contact them if you notice anything happening on the water that you are at all concerned about. It really helps try to get a good description of the vessel and people concerned. If possible write these things down, along with the date, time and place that the incident happened. These observations will be useful when you come to making a report.

Have a great summer on the water. Take care of yourselves, your family, your boats, and your equipment - and stay safe on the water this coming summer.

Mike Goodwin
Volunteer Lake Warden

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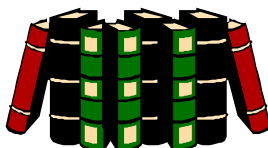
236 Te Ngae Road Rotorua / P : 07 345 9854 E: sean@telfermarine.co.nz
www.telfermarine.co.nz

www.bargainboatbits.co.nz Free Phone 0508 262824

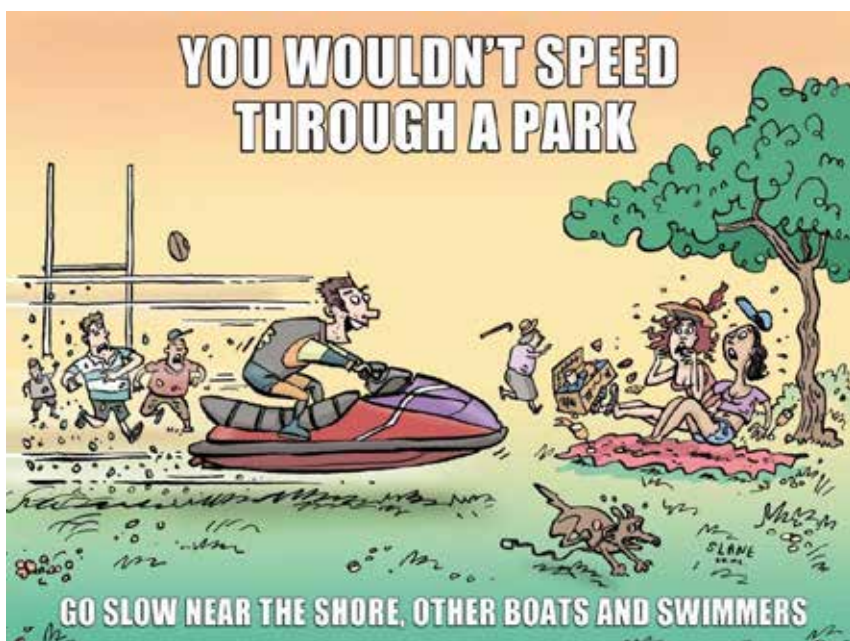


Mobile Library Service

The Rotorua Public Library mobile bus visits Lake Okareka
every **2nd Monday from 3.25pm to 4.10pm**
stopping outside the bus stop opposite 19 Loop Rd



The mobile library carries a good selection of fiction and non-fiction books for all ages, including large print, magazines and children's jigsaws. Special requests can be made for talking books, music CD's and cassettes, DVDs and videos and specific subjects. The mobile librarian is happy to discuss ways to improve their service.



Put More Spring In Your Step

Change



**From
this**



**To
this**



- **Are you feeling achy, tired and generally under par?**
- **Would you like to feel happier and more energetic?**

Spring is the time to shake off the winter doldrums and do something new for yourself. Get a regular massage as you get more active outdoors, rebalance your skin after indoor heating sucked your skin dry, treat yourself to a beauty makeover for spring or try a detox day retreat to feel well from the inside.

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2015 LAKE OKAREKA COMMUNITY TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Please make the following changes to the directory:

Add:	Bamford Abi	3 Benn Road	027 822 9069
	Raynor Mike	3 Benn Road	021 908 507
	Bennett Paul & Loise	11 Ridge Road	3628 613
	Compton Carolyn & Mike	2 Summit Road	
	Jackson Fran & Colin	191 Millar Road	3628 118
	Lawrence Steve & Yvonne	7 Summit Road	3628 230
	Taylor Family	10 Loop Road	3628 168
	Peek Sally & Arthur	6 Ridge Road	07 929 9857
	Webb Saul & Katrin	2 Branch Road	3628 473
	Caughy Leigh	6 Pryce Road	3628 976
Remove:	Charters R & B	6 Pryce Road	3628 507
	Zuidmeer H & A	17 Branch Road	3628 178

Please change the **inside back cover for the following important numbers:**

Rural mail delivery:

Remove: Kelvin & Sue Cook

Add: Jan Harmer 07 349 1254 or 022 153 6894

Harbourmaster:

Remove: 0800 368 267

Add: 07 921 3375 (24 hours/7 days a week)

For any corrections, additions or deletions please contact Carol on 3628 702.

NOTICE BOARDS

There is currently one community notice board at the hall in Okareka, and one adjacent to the toilet block at the lake front by the launch ramp.

If you wish to advertise anything such as:

- ≡ A lost pet
- ≡ An item for sale
- ≡ House/Bach for rent
- ≡ A lost item
- ≡ A wanted to buy

Please endeavour to keep notices to half A4 size.

Carol Christian-Price 3628 702.



EVENT INFORMATION—OCTOBER 2015 TO APRIL 2016

Date	Event Name	Reserve
Fri 9 - Sun 11 October 2015	Kayak Regatta, Canoe Racing NZ	Blue Lake
Sat 17 October 2015	Rowing Regatta, BOP Rowing Association	Blue Lake
Sun 1 November 2015	Tikitapu Trail Run, Nduro Events	Blue Lake
Fri 4 - Sun 6 December 2015	Kayak Regatta, Canoe Racing NZ	Blue Lake
Sat 19 December 2015	Rotorua Half Ironman, Brand New Day	Blue Lake
Fri 23 - Sun 25 January 2016	Blue Lake Regatta, Rotorua Rowing Club	Blue Lake
Sat 30 - Sun 31 January 2016	Blue Lake Multisport Festival, Rotorua Association of Triathletes	Blue Lake
Sat 6 Feb 2016	Tarawera Ultramarathon, NZ Trail Run	Blue Lake/Boyes Beach Reserve
Sun 28 Feb 2016	Open Water Swim (NZ Ocean Series), Quantum Events Ltd	Blue Lake
Sat 5 Mar 2016	Blue Miler, NZ Water Ski Racing Association	Blue Lake
Sat 2 April to Fri 8 April 2016	Te Waiariki Purea Trust, National Secondary Schools Waka Ama Regatta 2016	Blue Lake
Sat 16 April 2016	Xterra 2016, First Tier Sports Production	Blue Lake

Rotorua Lakes Council manages all reserve booking for events that happen in Rotorua. They also meet regularly with the BOP Regional Council to discuss and coordinate events happening close to and on all of the lakes in the region. Both organisations appreciate the impact events can have on the location they are held, both positive and negative. If you have feedback that you would like to offer or you wish to discuss events happening in your area, please contact the Events Manager on 073518654 or by emailing major.events@rdc.govt.nz.



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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Wanted—A house to rent for a medium term for an excellent tenant.

Please call **Norman Donald 07 3628056**, 0274 9501789 or norman@2lakes.co.nz

Heat Pump, Refrigeration and Electrical Work—no call out/travel costs for local residents. **Contact Andy Peek on 021 203 4413 or 07 929 9857**. Contracted to Philip Smith Electrical.

Wanted—small “old” Minnow or similar kayak or canoe. Perhaps you have one that is not used often and could help others enjoy Lake Okareka. **Phone Mike Bannister on 3628 043.**

Bee Swarms— Please phone me if you see any swarms this spring but only if they have settled. Not much use if I get a call to say “they went thataway”. Phone Bryan 3628 224.

Super dry fast start kindling—\$10.00 for 1 box or \$25.00 for 3 boxes. **Contact Hunter Potter, Ember Enterprise on 3628 556 or hunterjpotter@gmail.com**

Avon—my name is Caroline Wingate and I am an Avon representative. If you are interested in Avon please contact me on 3628 207, 021 148 9986 or cwingate@slingshot.co.nz.

Babysitter—my name is Lucy Phibbs and I am 14 years old. I am available for babysitting for daytime and evenings. I am enthusiastic and great with kids. **Phone: 3628 897**

Are Wasp Nests a Problem for You?

If you can locate the nest, we can treat it - at NO cost. This is a community service offered by Landcare Okareka, with chemicals funded from donations received by the group—**phone Mike Goodwin 3628 865**

FREE—Marque available for community events. **Phone Cathy Lines**, Licensed Salesperson, Okareka & Tarawera Specialist. First National Real Estate. Mob: 021 033 7707 or after hours on 3628 112

Sharpen your chainsaw on my electric grinding gadget for free or I will do it for \$5—**phone Bryan on 3628 224**

Pet Feeding Services - Pet feeding services over the holiday season and throughout the year, \$7 per visit includes indoor plants watered and mail collected. Limited boarding pens may be available—**phone Carol on 3628 702**

Heather Horton (Artist) - Watercolours, Oils, Pastels and lead-lighting work can be seen in the studio. Works are for sale, or can be ordered—phone 3628 165

Trees felled for free - Conditions apply—**phone Chris 3628 679 or Peter 3628 108**

Mobile Library visits every 2nd Monday at the bus stop opposite 19 Loop Road from 3.25pm to 4.10pm.

Trays made of recycled rimu - three sizes: 270x375 \$30, 310x450 \$40, 360x510 \$50 - phone **Bryan on 3628 224**.

Dry Blue Gum—only \$80 per m3 delivered to Lake Okareka/Lake Tarawera. Minimum of 2m3 for free delivery. **Phone Ngaire 345 7488 or 027 460 7056**

BK Transfers and Shuttles—24 hours shuttle service and personalized service to Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, Taupo and Rotorua cities/airports. **Phone Graeme 3628 867 or 027 3628 867**

House Cleaner Available—hourly rate. Ovens, Ironing, Windows. Anything you need cleaned. **Call Jenny 3628 063**

Hear Ye!! Hear Ye!! Hear Ye!!



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