



# **THE NEWSLETTER**

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

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**April, May and June 2014  
[www.lakeokareka.org](http://www.lakeokareka.org)**

# The Newsletter

of the

Lake Okareka Community Association (LOCA)

## Issue 2, June 2014

**Issue dates:** 20 March, 20 June, 20 September, 20 December

**Copies printed:** 300

**Deadline for copy:** 1st of the month of issue

**Advertising rates per issue:** Quarter page \$25, half \$40, full \$70

**Classified adverts:** Free for 1st listing/free items (4 lines)

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### DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

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

### *Front Cover:*

*Landcare Okareka volunteers off to a working bee along the Lake Okareka Walkway aboard Dennis Falconer's barge on Saturday 24th May 2014.*

*L to R: Mark McKenna, Gavin Muir (from Rotorua), Mike Goodwin, Bryan Walford, Flick Entwisle, Chris Russell, Sandra Goodwin. Sitting in front: Brian Law (from Owkata).*

*See page 5 for more information about Landcare Okareka.*

## CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE—JUNE 2014



Greetings from the LOCA committee and a welcome to winter and all things happening at Okareka.

Firstly congratulations to the **Okareka Volunteer Rural Fire Force** on their winning performance at the Sky Tower Stair Challenge. Details are in the article in this newsletter along with the photo of Blair Gilbert, Phil Muldoon, Phil Rennie and Kierin Oppatt; great effort guys.

Big news in Rotorua in the past month has been the major restructuring of the staff levels at the **Rotorua District Council** resulting in staffing costs reduced by 10% and savings of \$3.5 million. Whilst it would be great to think we can all look forward to a reduction in our rates as a result, it appears that even with this saving we will still have annual rate increases of 3% for a number of years to come.

The three year review of all **Property Values** in Rotorua is currently underway and the new values will be available in October and will be used for rates assessments in the 2015/16 financial year. Many property sales in recent years at the lakes have been below valuation and in particular those at the higher end of the market so the new valuations will be interesting in the light of the booming property market in Auckland.

The **Annual Plans** from both the District and Regional Councils will be confirmed later this month and we hope that the staffing reduction at RDC will not impact on levels of service in Rotorua.

We are awaiting confirmation of the sign-off by Council of the **Walking Track from Boyes Beach to the DOC campground** because we are now in a position to start work on the DOC land part of the track so hopefully it will be finished by year end.

The **DOC Campground** continues to be well patronised and revenue for April/May is ahead of the same period last year. To add to the fund raising opportunities we have asked RDC to consider a partnership with LOCA and other Okareka groups to assist in managing the Freedom Campers who use the Boyes Beach facilities. We hope to have more information shortly.

The proposed increase in access to the **Tarawera/Okareka Transfer Station** is in the Annual Plan and we hope will be confirmed to give either 24/7 access or similar hours to the Tarawera Trail carpark across the road that is open 8am to 7pm year round.

Council have proposed a number of changes to road speed limits in Rotorua and included is a 50km sign from the DOC reserve as you come down the hill to **The Blue Lake around the lake front** to the Loop Road turn off to Oka-

reka. Whilst the dangerous period is obviously over the busy summer period and in particular when there are events with lake/road closures (Auckland/Wellington anniversary weekends). There are more and more tourists year round in campervans/cars who are unfamiliar with the area. Submissions are open to the end of June and the LOCA committee are in favour of extending the restriction to the Blue/Green lake parking area. If you have suggestions/comments please let us know.

In case you were not aware we have lost one of our Life Members, **Dame Dorothy Winstone** who died in April at the age of 95. Dorothy was a great supporter of Okareka and whilst unable to visit from her home in Auckland in the past couple of years, she remained in contact with friends in the area up until this year. The family bach which is still in Acacia Road was built before the road was sealed; there was no power and all washing was done in the lake. Dorothy was a tireless women's rights campaigner and prominent academic. She will be sadly missed.

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

Geoff Palmer Chairman



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## LANDCARE OKAREKA—A SHORT HISTORY



Landcare Okareka was formed in May 2003 and the main focus for the volunteers at that time was the Lake Okareka Walkway. Some public plantings had been carried out along the walkway in the previous winter, under Rotorua District Council guidance. The plantings were needing attention with weed control work and more plantings needed to be done.

Local resident Joan Grace, assisted by Adrienne Grant from Department of Conservation, set up the Landcare Okareka steering committee. Over the years since then there have been changes to the steering committee members and an expansion in the numbers of volunteers who carry out work at Lake Okareka.

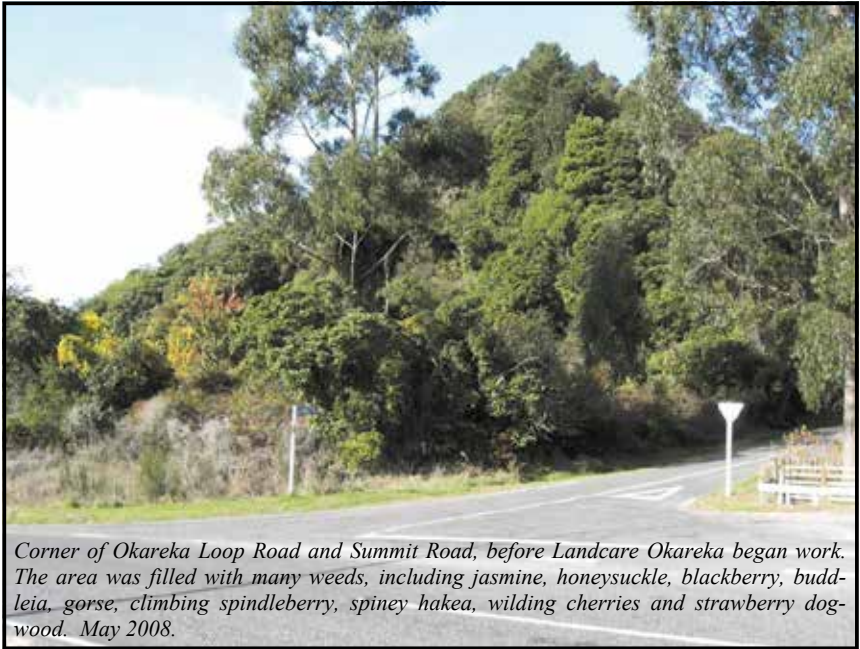
As time has gone on and the walkway plantings have been completed, the group has expanded its working area to include many local reserves which are managed by either Rotorua District Council or Department of Conservation. Volunteers from Landcare Okareka still go back at least once a year to check all of the existing plantings to control any weeds that come up in the plantings. Over the years Landcare Okareka has received several awards in recognition of their efforts. Twice we have been recognised with a Trustpower and Rotorua District Council Award in the Heritage and Environment section. We have also been presented with a “Keep Rotorua Beautiful” award and in 2012-2013. Landcare Okareka was the Bay of Plenty regional winner of the “Weedbusters” award.

Landcare Okareka holds a Memorandum of Understanding with both Rotorua District Council and the Department of Conservation. It is also a registered Landcare Group with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council and is in the process of negotiating a Biodiversity Management Plan with BOPRC. Through all of these contacts we have access to resources especially in terms of expertise, but also for plants and chemicals.

One of the highly visible areas that Landcare Okareka has worked in recently is the area around the pump station on the corner of Okareka Loop Road and Summit Road, for which we gained the 2012-2013 “Weedbusters” award. Take a look at the before, during and after photos (on the next page) and you will notice what a difference the volunteers from Landcare Okareka, with the assistance of Guy Gaddum Construction, Rotorua District Council (with plants and chemicals) and Bay of Plenty Regional Council (with plants) have made to this entrance to Lake Okareka settlement.



[www.weedbusters.org.nz](http://www.weedbusters.org.nz)







*First planting day by Landcare Okareka volunteers August 2011*



*And this is a photo of the corner area taken in April 2013. This just shows what a bit of hard team work can do!*

### What were Landcare Okareka volunteers going to do on our last Working Bee?



We were going to shift gravel that Rotorua District Council had dropped over the fence earlier in the year, above Silver beach. The photo shows some of the guys busy filling wheelbarrows with the track gravel. If you go out on the Lake Okareka walkway you will see where we have been working. Many thanks to everyone who came to help.

Over the next few months there will be some smaller plantings done around Lake Okareka and up at Tikitapu DOC reserve. We would love to have people come to help. Keep an eye out for the sign boards which will give you date, time and place or contact Sandra 362 8865 for further details.



*This is what we went to do on the last Working Bee - shifting gravel to the walkway in an area above Silver Beach. Photo shows Men at Work - L to R: Gavin Muir, Bryan Walford, Mark McKenna (in white t-shirt) and Chris Russell*



## TIKITAPU SCENIC RESERVE PEST CONTROL PROJECT

The 2013 Pest Control Project was completed with the removal of the poison signs at the beginning of April. There were no problems encountered during the project, although the results were disappointing, with the high number of rodents and marsupials monitored after the baiting was completed.

This year the baits will go out early in August when we hope the pests will be cold and hungry, and we will achieve a better result.

The Pest Control Programme has commenced with the first working bees to trim the lines and to check the bait stations are intact. The programme for the remainder of the year is:-

### **Tikitapu Working Bee Programme 2014**

#### **Trimming Lines, checking stations etc.**

June—Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> & Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>

July—Friday 11<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>

#### **Pre Bait Monitoring**

Trakka cards and wax tags out - Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July

Trakka cards in – Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July

Wax tags in – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August

#### **Bagging baits**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August

#### **Bait laying**

Baits out – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August

Top up – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> & Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August

Clear stations – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> & Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September

#### **Post Bait Monitoring**

Trakka cards and wax tags out - Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September

Trakka cards in – Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September

Wax tags in – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October

There will also be working bees to plant some new trees around the mistletoe area and to infill gaps near the start of the Nature Walk. These working bees are ideal for people who are no longer able to manage going up and down the bait lines.

We would be delighted to have some more Okareka residents assisting with this project which benefits the local community. If you would be interested in helping please contact Frances and James Blakely on 3628 480 or [blake-lys@xtra.co.nz](mailto:blake-lys@xtra.co.nz).





## The Lake Okareka Volunteer Rural Fire Force

The Lake Okareka Fire Force has had a very busy first five months of the year for both callouts and community events. Motor vehicle accidents and storm related incidents are usually top of our list in the autumn and winter seasons. Sometimes chimney fires also feature but by now you all would have had them swept so we shouldn't get any of these!!

Three members of the Fire Force took part in the Rotorua Marathon in early May, with two of those three continuing on to compete in the Fire Fighter Sky Tower Stair Climb Challenge along with two other Okareka Fire Force members. This event entails running up the 51 floors of the Auckland Sky Tower (a total of 1103 steps) wearing 25kg of firefighting kit. There are two team categories: Donned where the competitors wear all the gear; and Donned and Started where competitors use the breathing apparatus as they run. The Lake Okareka team was entered in the Donned category as, being rural fire volunteers, we cannot legally enter the other category.

Teams from all around the country, as well as Australia and the United States, compete in the event which supports Leukaemia and Blood Cancer New Zealand. A massive fundraising drive is undertaken by the teams in the months leading up to the event. The Lake Okareka team raised over \$2,000 with a whopping \$880,000+ being raised in total from the event.

On the day, the Lake Okareka Fire Force team (Kierin Oppatt, Blair Gilbert, Phil Rennie and myself) achieved some very credible times which saw us win the 'Donned' team event nearly a full five minutes ahead of the second-placed team. This was even more credible given that Blair and I were in the 'Masters' division – not bad for a couple of 'old fellas'. Individually, Kierin placed 4<sup>th</sup> both in the Open ('younger') division and overall, with Phil Rennie placing 30<sup>th</sup> in the Open division. Blair and myself placed 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> respectively in the Masters division. With such a fantastic effort by all, the team are all keen to have another crack at this event, so look out next year!

For those who are interested, you can check-out the full results on [www.firefightersclimb.org.nz](http://www.firefightersclimb.org.nz).



Another huge achievement is the success of the Youth in Emergency Services (YES) programme which provides young people from local secondary schools the opportunity to experience a range of emergency services by participating in training and emergency scenarios over a number of weeks. This programme was initially based on what we do in the Lake Okareka Fire Force in terms of training and youth involvement. Blair Gilbert developed the programme for the Ministry of Youth Development and ran the pilot project for the Rotorua district in 2013.

The Government saw how beneficial the programme was in terms of confidence-building, life-skills and exposing students to potential career pathways. The YES programme also recognises that, as our population ages, we will need our young people as volunteers more than ever. As a result, the programme was extended to six other centres throughout New Zealand and granted \$60,000 in funding support. We recently completed a second round of the programme here in Rotorua, again under Blair's management. The programme has also blossomed in the other nominated centres and, just recently, an additional \$200,000 has been granted to extend the programme to a further 20 communities. This is a real testament to Blair's foresight, tenacity and management skills; a credit to our Fire Force and our community.

For more details on the YES programme, you can check out the Rotorua YES facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/RotoruaYES>.

Looking forward a few months or so, the Lake Okareka Fire Force is planning to hold a community bonfire around the 5<sup>th</sup> of November. If you have any suggestions to make this a memorable (and safe) occasion, please don't hesitate to contact us.

For anyone wanting to contact the Fire Force, please phone me on 362 8874 or go to our website: [www.okarekaruralfire.com](http://www.okarekaruralfire.com).

Phil Muldoon  
**Chief Fire Officer**



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## LAKE TARAWERA PLAYCENTRE

The weather has been great the past few weeks so we have been able to get out and spend some quality time outside exploring before the winter really sets in. Most of the kids attending playcentre at the moment are 3 years and younger (as we have had a few big kids leave to go to school or preschool.) This means the group is comfortably able to play at a similar level. A good example of this is when we had a group outing to the Tarawera Buried Village. We met there on Thursday 29th May at 9.30am and the kids and parents walked around the site exploring where the hotel once stood. There were magnificent trout in the stream next to the site which the kids enjoyed seeing. Everyone also managed to get down to see the waterfall. All the parents and kids were helping each other getting up and down the steps. It was great for the kids to see everyone working together. This term at Centre we will be learning more about our local history and what makes our area special.

Lake Tarawera Playcentre is open Mondays and Thursdays 9.15-12.15. Please feel free to come down and visit during the sessions.

Written by Sarah Holland







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## Lake Ōkāreka - Hornwort Monitoring Report – 29 May 2014

Biosecurity dive monitoring in Lake Ōkāreka by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council dive team was completed in March 2014 and consisted of six days' diving (46 dives, 24.5 hours underwater). Seven previously known hornwort sites were monitored and all areas of the lake that have the potential to house hornwort were inspected. As part of the monitoring, the results of the previous year's (2013) spray programme were also checked.

The monitoring consisted of snorkelling the raupo margin area, scuba diving all depth bands to the edge of the weed bed, circular searches around known hornwort sites, manta board tows and underwater scooter surveillance.

Hornwort was found in the following sites:

- Northern bay around from Boyes beach (1 small plant)
- The Walkway bay (6-8 small plants)
- The Steep Street reserve (2 small plants)
- Boyes beach (1 small plant)

The plant found in the Northern bay was removed by divers. The remaining three sites where hornwort was detected were <5m<sup>2</sup> in size. Results have shown a reduction in the size of the previously known infestations of hornwort within Lake Ōkāreka, most notably within the Boyes beach area. The bay on the eastern side of Aca-cia Road (The Walkway bay) was difficult to monitor due to *Lagarosiphon major* beds in a 25ha - 30ha delta which means there is some uncertainty around whether hornwort plants are present there.

The results of the 2013 spraying of Lake Ōkāreka has shown extremely good results with the native re-generation in some parts on the lake inhabiting 100% of the habitat. The spraying for the 2014 year was carried out early April and targeted the Walkway bay delta and the margin area of the Northern bay.

It was agreed that BOPRC divers would complete a days' work each month in Lake Ōkāreka as a precautionary measure and method of early detection for dormant hornwort plants. The first monthly dive was completed on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2014 and resulted in several plants being detected in the northern bays to the east of Boyes Beach. Depths of the plants ranged from 2m – 5m and included raupo margin areas. No plants were found in these areas during the BOPRC and NIWA monitoring efforts that occurred prior to this date.

Initially the findings of the plants were disheartening. However, this is now turning our attention to larger processes which are occurring in the lake and how they are affecting the growth of hornwort. BOPRC divers will continue to complete monthly dives right up until the next spray effort.

NIWA have completed their dive trials in Lake Ōkāreka which saw 12 scientific divers (including BOPRC divers) put through their paces. Results from the trials will be presented in the final report which is due October 2014.

Stephanie Bathgate, Land Management Officer, Bay of Plenty Regional Council

## TIMM'S POSSUM TRAPS—JUNE 2014

The loan scheme Timm's POSSUM traps have been kept quite busy lately. Obviously people are hearing possums about in their gardens at night – or noticing their impact. Great work – the only good possum is a dead one!

### **DO you currently have one of the loaned yellow Timm's possum traps??**

There are a few people with traps who we have not heard from in a while – can you please let us know if you still have a trap and if you are using it, what you have been catching?

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, 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 & Sandra Goodwin on 362 8865.



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## RAT BAIT AND BAIT STATIONS—WINTER 2014

Ditrac rat bait provided by Bay of Plenty Regional Council is available to individual property owners to support enhancing the biodiversity at Lake Okareka. We are especially interested in getting 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](mailto:sgoodwin@actrix.co.nz) – made by the Lake Tarawera Pest Management Group and cost is \$35. Marcel van Leeuwen, a Lake Okareka local resident is also making bait stations, cost is \$20, contact Marcel on 362 8468 or email [marvl@xtra.co.nz](mailto:marvl@xtra.co.nz) to order them.

**NEWS! NEWS! A New type of bait station** If you would prefer a new type of bait station which is **lockable** – or you would rather actually **trap rats**, than use baits, please let us know. We will have access to lockable bait stations, which can hold either bait or traps. Let us know if you are interested in these. Cost will be around \$25 to \$30.

**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 database 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 “Bob Scope” bait station** for \$35, please contact Mike & Sandra Goodwin on 362 8865, 2 Pryce Road or Rod Stace on 362 8523, 30 Summit Road. **Please phone first to arrange a suitable time to collect bait or a bait station.**

## LAKE OKAREKA PRESCHOOL—MAY 2014

Welcome to our new children and their families who have joined us this term Taine Dyson, Yasmin Skevington, Anja Van der Merwe, Claire Randell, Sylvie Brears, Maddie Kilmister and Nastassja Stevens.

### Learning at Preschool this month

The children have had a visit from dental educator Nicole Flann who introduced correct teeth brushing and healthy food choices for our teeth. Dan the puppet man came along with his many puppets to deliver a greater understanding of road safety during road safety awareness week. We will be having a shared luncheon at Preschool for our families and to welcome and thank a few people within our community. The children are enjoying making paper, transferring our worm farm juice to our vegetable gardens, baking and much more.

### Cocktail Evening Fundraiser

The Preschool Fundraiser was held on May 10th at the hall. This was a fabulous evening for all. The event was a huge success and we thank all those who contributed by coming along and those who were successful bidders in the art auction. We had some fantastic art donated by people from the Preschool community past and present. We would like to acknowledge the amazing effort of the Board in putting together such a great event. Thank you to everyone who supported Preschool. Also thank you to local artists Helen Weblin, Aly Bennett, Nic Bennett, Kat Gellatly, Katie Hoy, Sheryl Henman, Angela Croft and children of Lake Okareka Preschool.



*Donated by Envy and recreated by the children with Davina*



*Made and donated by artist Nic Bennett*

### Recycling cardboard and paper

We really appreciate the support from the community to recycle as this not only reduces our carbon footprint, it also helps funds for Preschool. The bin is emptied on a Wednesday. Please remember this bin is only for clean cardboard and paper.

Please let any families with Preschool children know about Lake Okareka Preschool right here in your community. You can visit us on [www.lakeokarekapreschool.co.nz](http://www.lakeokarekapreschool.co.nz), Facebook or give us a call on 362 8606. Term two closes on Friday July 4<sup>th</sup> and re-opens for term three on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July.

Teaching Team, Lake Okareka Preschool



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## DABCHICK COUNTS

The Dabchick counters completed a series of three counts in late March early April. The number of Dabchicks per count were as follows:

- 29 March - 62
- 30 March - 57
- 5 April - 81

We were surprised by the high number on the last count and have concluded the lack of kayakers and waka arma on that morning may have helped. When we submitted our results to DOC we also asked some questions. These and DOCs response are below:

### **Could we go back to doing the counts over three weekends?**

I'm not sure why the counts moved to a 2 week period rather than 3 weekends, however we see no problem with doing three weekends, nor with doing counts on two consecutive days. Dabchicks are highly mobile, so there should be no problem there.

### **Could counts be done in the evening?**

To keep things consistent counts do need to be done in the mornings, as the dabchicks would likely have different patterns throughout the day. Morning counts also keep wind/choppiness to a minimum.

### **What can we do to encourage the Dabchicks to thrive?**

We can look at a lot of options to protect the Dabchicks and I think it would be great if we could discuss these at a get-together (which I've mentioned before) with all the survey groups.

Protection options could include: signage to increase public awareness, animal pest control, planting lake margins.

Would you be interested in having a get-together to discuss such methods, and if so when would suit you best eg weekday lunch, weekday evening, weekend lunch or evening? It would be great to get some feedback from all of the groups to find a preferred time for this event.

### **What do DOC do with the data?**

The data will be used to prepare a report drawing comparisons to previous counts so that we can determine what the population at each lake is doing eg growing or declining. This will then inform what actions are to be taken eg extra effort in protecting habitat etc and also what areas need to be prioritised.

We have told DOC we would be very interested in learning more about these remarkable birds. Hopefully we will have more information to share in the next LOCA newsletter.

If you would like to help with trapping or counting please contact Mike Vincent or Mike Goodwin.





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## Lake Okareka Community Association Article—June 2014

Hon Todd McClay—MP for Rotorua

Two of the main issues raised with me by residents in Lake Okareka are broadband speed and water quality. As your MP I remain committed to working with the community on these issues.

Since my last update to you I am pleased to hear broadband speed in the Lake Okareka area has improved. This is good news for residents and local businesses. More work needs to be done however and I have received an update from Vodafone to ensure me they are continuing to work through this issue. I have impressed upon them the need to find a long-term and sustainable solution to Lake Okareka's broadband issues.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council are continuing to focus on improving the water quality of Lake Okareka with the help of their Catchment Action Plan. Vast improvements for neighbouring Lake Rotoiti are encouraging.

Improving the quality of Rotorua's lakes is a key focus of mine and in May I was pleased to announce \$24 million reallocation of funding to help improve the health of Lake Rotorua. This funding addresses the legacy issues of nutrient leaching, including the many years that urban waste water flowed into Lake Rotorua, and the ongoing effect of farming practices from more than 50 years ago.

The \$24 million agreed for reallocation by Cabinet will be matched by Regional Council funding creating a pool of \$48 million to clean up the Lake.

Over the last two years I've joined with the LWQS, local farmers, iwi, our Regional Council and RDC to come to an agreement over this issue which better meets our needs. It is pleasing that a sustainable solution has been found which means this funding will remain in Rotorua and that the work to return our waterways to health will continue.

I am often in the Lake Okareka area and would welcome the chance to meet with you. Should you wish to make an appointment, please contact my Rotorua office on (07) 348 5871 or email me directly at [roto-rua.mp@national.org.nz](mailto:roto-rua.mp@national.org.nz). My staff and I would love to hear from you.

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS—BOB AND NITA VAN BOVEN

Bob and Nita van Boven came to Lake Okareka as newly weds in 1970. They had previously bought a section (in the Eric Robertson subdivision of 1957) when living in Rotorua where Bob had a job at the F.R.I. The section up on the hill at Summit Road had a beautiful view and was quite steep but that was not a problem for them as they were young, energetic, and hard working and had a goal to build their home. While their house was being built they rented cottages, initially on Loop Road and later on Calder Road where John now 43 and George 41 were born. John now lives at Benn Road with his lovely wife Sonya and daughters Leah and Amy.

From the beginning Nita and Bob have enjoyed the support and friendliness of the "village" community as well as the peaceful and beautiful physical environment Okareka had to offer. People in the early days often asked the question "why would you want to live all the way out there?!!". Now they say how lucky we are to live here - which is true !

Bob got involved with community activities including the Hall Committee where, along with Peter Blackburn, he set up the first fundraising fishing contest to fund the hall extension and inside toilet facilities. Peter continued the fishing competitions as an Okareka event for many years. Bob and Peter also initiated the construction of the boat ramp jetty. Bob was also a foundation member of the Lake Okareka Fire Force under the expertise and guidance of Sheldon Drummond who had an amazing ability to procure such vital items as our first fire engine and materials to build our fire station.

At FRI Bob trained as a Forest Entomologist (the scientific study of insects) and at one stage bred lady birds and other parasitic insects to control defoliating pests on gum trees. Bob left FRI in 1989 to pursue new ventures including a stint in freshwater fisheries research with MAF where his boating and fishing skills proved very useful. Following the transfer of the MAF freshwater operations to NIWA (Hamilton Campus) Bob chose to remain Rotorua based, taking up a Forest Health Surveillance position with MOF (Ministry of Forestry). These days Bob occupies his time with the day to day administrative duties for Nita's busy midwifery practice from the home office at Summit Road. He also enjoys his after school "Opa" duties with his Okareka grandchildren.

Nita had already started her nursing training in Tauranga and when the boys started school Nita bravely went back to finish her training and got her midwifery registration in 1989. Nita is an independent midwife of great renown who enjoys providing continuity of care for women and their families from early in their pregnancy to up to six weeks after baby is born. Nita truly is an

amazing midwife I know from personal experience and the way she said “the magic of bringing life into the world” was wonderful and oh so caring. Nita has numerous pregnant women on her books currently until next February when she says she will have a holiday!! I love the way she always backs the car in the drive for a good start, babies don’t keep appointments!! Nita says Lake Okareka is very beautiful and she loves walking the dog in the early mornings when she might not see another soul.

This delightful couple love to have the grandchildren come and mess with boats, both yacht and dinghy to sail, or go fishing and I get the feeling that the grandchildren love to come and be with Opa and Oma. They enjoy seeing the families of Lake Okareka enjoying the activities and freedom that the lake and village offer - just as they and their families have for the past 40+ years. They think it is still a privilege and a joy to live in and be part of the Lake Okareka community.

*Written by Fenella Playne*





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## LAKE OKAREKA TENNIS CLUB

### **Winter Tennis:**

The Club activities have wound down for the winter months but new members are always welcome.

### **Subscriptions 2013/2014 year:**

The current subs remain as \$100 for the whole family until October this year. The committee believes this is exceptional value for a family membership. Payment is requested into the account of the Club as Westpac Bank account number 03 – 1552 – 0130369 – 00. **It is essential you e-mail confirmation of the deposit** to avoid any unidentified deposits. It is also necessary for you to include in your e-mail current contact details including mail, telephone and e-mail details. A key will be sent to you.

### **Netball, Soccer and Hockey:**

The Club has netball hoops for casual children and adult play. Casual football and hockey is also played by adults and children. Send in your name if you are interested in being notified of games. These range from 2 aside upwards and are a great work out.

### **Club Ladder**

The Club Ladder competition is about to get under way. This is a mixed doubles comp over a few months. Register your interest by e-mail.

### **Coaching**

The Club coach Henry Gers is available for group or individual lessons at the Rotorua Club in Manuka Crescent. Henry has group lessons which are great fun and good exercise. Henry's number is 021 627 013 or [henrygers@hotmail.com](mailto:henrygers@hotmail.com)

**Contacts for the Tennis club are** John 362 8282; Hongli 362 8106; Gerrie 362 8835 or [johnbattersby@xtra.co.nz](mailto:johnbattersby@xtra.co.nz)

	<p><b>Breakfast Lunch Dinner</b></p> <p><b>Ph 348 8818 <a href="http://www.Capers.co.nz">www.Capers.co.nz</a></b></p>
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# Stop Feeling Old and Creaky!

## Change



**From  
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- **Are you feeling achy, tired and generally under par?**
- **Do you wish you could hibernate until winter ends?**
- **Would you like to feel happier and energetic?**

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## LAKE OKAREKA GARDEN BIRD SURVEY

### Can you help us please?

Landcare Okareka, as part of carrying out work on measuring the biodiversity of the Lake Okareka area, would like to undertake a Garden Bird Survey this year. It will operate along similar lines to the nationally run Garden Bird Survey which is carried out each year by Landcare Research. There is no reason why you could not also pass the information that you collect locally on to the national survey as well—<http://gardenbirdsurvey.landcareresearch.co.nz>. The national survey is held from **28<sup>th</sup> June to 7<sup>th</sup> July 2014**, so we will carry out a local garden bird survey in this same time period.

Taking part is easy – spend just 1 hour (yes just 1 hour!) sometime within the time period 28<sup>th</sup> June to 7<sup>th</sup> July 2014, looking for birds in your garden. For each species you detect, record the largest number that you see (or hear) at the same time. Please count, not just tick the species you observe. You will find the “Garden Bird Survey” form as a loose page with the Newsletter, to fill in and return.



If you need help with bird identification the online Garden Bird Survey will help.

Please fill in the survey form that is with this copy of the Lake Okareka “Newsletter” and either drop it back or post it to 2 Pryce Road, Lake Okareka, RD5, Rotorua 3076 before the end of July 2014. We look forward to receiving your replies.

We will print the results of the local Garden Bird Survey in the next edition of the Lake Okareka “Newsletter”.

Landcare Okareka Steering Committee



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## NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT/CIVIL DEFENCE

### How prepared are you for a Civil Defence Emergency?



The recent storm, that left Lake Okareka without power for nearly a whole day, was a timely reminder to the LOCA committee that the Neighbourhood Support system for Lake Okareka settlement needs to be updated. Our current co-ordinator is standing down, a number of people have moved out of the village or changed address and we have many new residents. Our

Neighbourhood Support data base is now out-of-date.

As a result we decided to hold a community event to bring people together with the dual goals of revitalising the Neighbourhood Support scheme and meeting staff from the RDC Civil Defence team to see how we can best weather any future storms, earthquakes or volcanic eruptions that might affect the village.



We all know that our children and grandchildren are the best placed to remind us to always be prepared, so we invite the whole family along to start learning how



to take care of ourselves, friends and neighbours when disaster strikes.

### Lake Okareka Neighbours Lunch from 12 noon

### Sunday 3 August 2014 at Lake Okareka Community Hall

There will be a sausage sizzle and drinks available. Meet your neighbours and investigate displays about “being prepared”.

Come along to find out how to make your home “quake safe” and have a look at cheap low-tech telephones that will work even when the power is out. Neighbourhood Support information packs will be available, and we are always looking for more street-by-street coordinators.

Organised by members of LOCA Committee and Lake Okareka Rural Fire Force team.

### LOCA SUBSCRIPTION 2014

- *Do you enjoy reading this quarterly newsletter?*
- *Aren't you pleased that someone represents you to the Council?*
- *Aren't the community events great fun?*

*These are carried out either by, or with the help,  
of the Lake Okareka Community Association (LOCA),  
but this work is not possible without your support.*

*Your chance to have a say, get involved  
and keep informed is here now.*

*Simply fill in the slip with the newsletter,  
pop it and \$20 in an envelope and either post or deliver it to:*

*LOCA, c/- 23 Millar Road, Lake Okareka.*

### LAKE OKAREKA COMMUNITY TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

We hope to publish a new Okareka phone book by Christmas this year so if anybody is not already in it and wants to be please call Carol on 3628 702 or email [carolcp@vodafone.co.nz](mailto:carolcp@vodafone.co.nz) with your details.

#### PHONE BOOK ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS

Add	Brown, Ashleigh	46 Loop Road	3628 085
	Findley, Bruce & Noeline	12 Millar Road	
	Henley, Norman & Rachel	2 Ridge Road	3628 065
	Oxley, Kate	10 Branch Road	3628 372
Change	Jeune, Rebecca	14 Calder Road	3628 751
	Webb, S&K	59 Summit Road	3628 473
	Douglas, Megan	100 Loop Road	3628 792
Remove	Triner, John	13 Loop Road	



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**For Sale Boat Shed**—registered. Accessed from Calder Rd. All enquiries to **Don on 0274 988 912**

My name is Olivia Burman and I live out at Lake Okareka. I am looking for **casual baby-sitting or weekend day nannying/ babysitting**. I currently work part time at Red Stag Timber Ltd. Call me on 3628 701 or 021 0644410. Reference checks available too.

### **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 AH: 07 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 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**.



# Lake Okareka Fishing Club



ITS TIME TO DUST OFF THE FISHING GEAR!

LAKE OKAREKA 2014 WINTER TROUT FISHING TOURNAMENT  
PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY VIP REALTY



To be held on Lake Okareka from 5:00am Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> to  
12 noon Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> July.

Time to put some new names on the trophies!

**Trophy Categories:**

- 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

All prizes will be by donation only

**Registration:** Lake Okareka Lakefront Friday 4th 4:30–7:30pm  
**Live Rugby at Registration !! (Chiefs versus Hurricanes)**  
All anglers must hold current licence, **these will be recorded at registration.**

**Entry Fee:** Adult \$15.00  
Junior \$10.00

**Weigh In Times:** Saturday at Lakefront 1:30pm  
Sunday at Lakefront 12 noon

**Prize giving:** Sunday from 1:00pm at the Lakefront.

**Sausage sizzle:** At the lakefront for both weigh in's

Any prize donations gratefully accepted, contact Steve 3628 790, Dean 3628 960 or Jason 3628 682 anytime for more information.