



# THE NEWSLETTER

Lake Okareka  
Community Association (Inc.)

October, November and December 2014  
[www.lakeokareka.org](http://www.lakeokareka.org)

# The Newsletter

of the

Lake Okareka Community Association (LOCA)

## Issue 4, December 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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### Your Committee:

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<b>Sandra Goodwin</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>3628 865</b>	
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<b>Mike Vincent</b>	<b>3628 376</b>	<b>Katy Hodgson</b>	<b>3628 857</b>

### DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

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



## CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE—DECEMBER 2014



Greetings from LOCA and our best wishes to all for a great Christmas and New Year.

2014 has been a positive year for Okareka in a number of areas and these include:

**Property revaluations:** as expected we now have more realistic valuations of many of the properties at Tarawera and Okareka although this is unlikely to result in lower rates in the catchment as a result of the

Council's serious financial situation at the present time. **District Council changes:** A new Mayor and a major restructure of staff, together with policy changes this year, have been positive for Lakes residents and resulted in new opportunities for us.

Council's recent name change to **The Rotorua Lakes Council** has recognised the Lakes as an integral part of the district for tourism and future growth.

Council has also recognised the benefits to Okareka by giving us the opportunity to manage the **Boyes Beach camping facility** with all revenue to be used for community projects. Already some of this income has been used to upgrade the parking areas at the jetty boat launch area, the Boyes Beach parking area and in particular to extend and upgrade the parking at the Community Hall. We have arranged this work ourselves with great cooperation from Guy Gaddum Contracting.

This funding is in addition to the revenue we receive from DOC as a result of managing **The DOC campground** on Millar Road. This revenue is earmarked in the first instance to assist with funding the walking track from Boyes Beach to the DOC camp. It will also be available for other worthwhile environmental enhancement in the catchment.

Good progress is being made with the **walking track** between the two campgrounds and we are looking forward to its completion in the New Year. This is a major project for Landcare Okareka and LOCA partnership with costs of around \$100,000 and many, many hours of volunteer labour.

The improvements to the Tarawera Transfer Station have been completed and is now the **Tarawera Recycling Facility** open 7 days a week for recycling suitable rubbish and disposing of Council Rubbish bags at no charge. It has been a joint project between Tarawera, Okareka and the Lakes Community Board with proactive support from both the District and Regional Councils. Removal of gorse in the area and landscaping are scheduled for the New Year.

Council now has money available for community projects through their **Matching Fund**. The community contribution can be in providing money, labour, timber, plants etc and Council will match it with money. Tarawera already have a community vegetable garden under this scheme and Landcare Okareka will be meeting with Council shortly to discuss our involvement.

The upgrade of the **Lake Outlet** through to Tarawera is now scheduled for Feb-

ruary/March next year and hopefully will go some way to ensure the lake level is better controlled than it has been in the past.

The lack of **Cell Phone** coverage in the area continues to be a major and frustrating problem that should have been rectified by now. There is a suitable site at the top of Millar Road for a cell phone tower and the cost will be covered by Central Government under their high speed broadband roll-out scheme. We have lobbied every man and his dog and whilst we are assured it will be approved shortly, in the meantime there will of course be serious accidents on roads, walking tracks and lakes etc where a prompt phone call would possibly save lives. Enough said.

The holiday season will once again put pressure on **Traffic Management** at the Lakes and in particular at the Blue Lake so please drive carefully as many of the visitors and tourists will be here for the first time. You will note there is now a 50km speed limit from the DOC reserve on Tarawera Road to Loop Road at the Blue Lake.

Unfortunately Council continue to support events involving lake and road closures on Wellington and Auckland Anniversary weekends which will result in many visitors to Okareka. There will also be approximately 50 campervans leaving the area every morning at peak periods.

The **International Ultra Marathon** is scheduled for Waitangi weekend coming through Okareka the morning of 7 February and stopping at Boyes Beach for drinks/food. The organiser assures us it will be well managed and the supporters (1000 entries) will park at the Blue Lake and be bussed back and forth to Boyes Beach.

Included with this newsletter is the **Okareka 2015 Phone Book** which is going to all residents and ratepayers at no charge. Additional copies are available if required.

**The Fire Force** continues to be an important asset to Okareka and apart from the excellent training etc the volunteers receive, the recent sponsorship of the Guy Fawkes fireworks (many thanks Dennis) and the social for the locals were very much appreciated (thanks Phil and Blair).

Okareka is a special place to live and holiday and this is enhanced by all the **volunteers** who make contributions in so many ways either as individuals or team members or lobby on our behalf when required.

They all know who they are and I would like to acknowledge their contributions. Thank you.

Take care and look after one another.

Geoff Palmer Chair

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## LAKE OKAREKA TENNIS CLUB

The Spring season has kicked off well with strong interest again in the Junior Coaching on Friday evenings. Our coach Henry Gers with an assistant is also coaching some keen juniors and a few adults on Tuesday evenings. We welcome newcomers and more adults on Wednesdays at 5.45 pm would be great. Unfortunately the spring wild weather and wind has made these sessions few and far between. Here's hoping for a long settled summer.

### Subscriptions 2014/2015 year:

The new season's subs (due as at 1 October) remain at \$100 for the whole family. 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.

### Keys:

The lock for the courts has been changed. If you have paid your subs and have yet to receive a key contact one of the numbers below. Most keys should have been distributed by now.

### Spring coaching for children:

The coaching for children now finishes on 12 December. Henry has a different format planned for the last session. There will be a final day on 12 December with Henry. The cost for the eight weeks has been set at the reduced cost of \$40 per child and payment is due now.

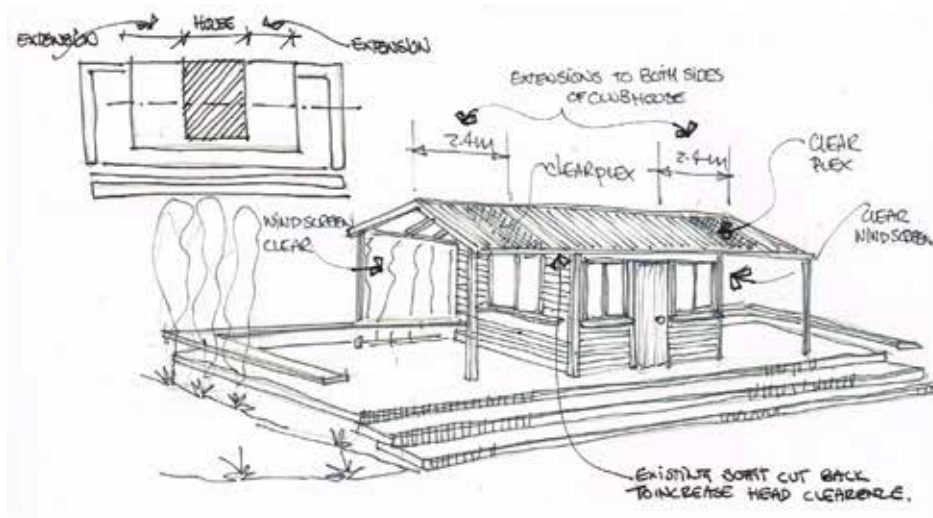
### Club House Alterations

The Club House is to be extended. A working bee is scheduled for the second weekend of term one in 2015. Workers that weekend are welcome especially those with building skills. You can see the proposed extension on the LOCA site <http://www.lakeokareka.org/tennis-club.html>. Any comments or suggestions are welcome.

### Weekly Tennis:

Weekly adult tennis is underway each Wednesday from 5.45 pm. A range of playing abilities are displayed and any players are welcome.

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





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## NEW YEAR'S DAY YACHT RACE

Anyone with a yacht?

Keep the first day of 2015 free for the annual  
New Year's Yacht race.

Starts at **BOYES BEACH** around 2pm and sails around  
Lake Okareka.

It's a good idea to get to Boyes Beach by 1pm.

Entries on the day. **ALL WELCOME**

Come out for a fun day on the water!!



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## FROM THE LAKES HARBOURMASTER AND MARITIME TEAM

### Call for boats and jet skis to slow down on the lakes December 2014

A drowning on Lake Rotorua last week was a stark reminder about always wearing a lifejacket and keeping a close eye on lake conditions, the Lakes Harbour Master says. Bay of Plenty Regional Council Lakes Harbour Master, Pererika Makiha, says he's hoping boaties and jetskiers keep to the rules on the water this summer. "Lake conditions can change so quickly that people get caught out. Always wear a lifejacket, even if you don't think you need one."

Speeding is the most common reason for Bay of Plenty Regional Council Maritime officers and lake wardens to have to pull people up on the lakes. There are 32 active Lake Wardens spread around the seven main lakes who train twice a year. People failing to keep to the rules are putting themselves and other lake users at risk, Mr Makiha said.

The number of offenses during last summer was the same as the previous year, other than speeding on jetskis, which almost doubled. Fifteen jetskiers were warned and five fined for speeding, compared with eight warnings and three fines the previous year. Fewer warnings and infringement notices were issued for boats using the lakes, except for those not wearing lifejackets. The number of boaties fined dropped from 22 to 5 last summer, and the number warned for speeding dropped from 18 to 11. Four people in canoes were warned about not wearing lifejackets, but boaties were mostly wearing them, he said.

Most offenders came from Tauranga, almost double the number from the previous year, while offenders from Hamilton almost halved. The number of local offenders stayed the same, with 13 stopped, Mr Makiha said. Offences in Lakes Rotoma, Rotoiti and Tikitapu all rose, but offenses were halved on Lakes Tarawera and Okareka.

Mr Makiha said the number of accidents, incidents and near-misses had risen in line with an increase in the number of jetskis on the region's waterways, particularly on the lakes. Most incidents involved males aged 17 to 30. "We wonder how many unreported near-misses there have been between jetskiers and other lake users. People forget that they are as powerful and as fast as a car, and the law currently allows anyone 15 and over to be in charge of one. With so many people out on our waterways, one person behaving badly can put a lot of other people at risk," Mr Makiha said.

The Regional Council's Maritime team will have little tolerance this summer for vessel users not carrying lifejackets, not having an observer when waterskiing or towing any other water sport device and exceeding five knots near swimmers, divers and small boats.

All vessels, including jetskis, are required to carry enough properly fitting lifejackets for everyone on board, and people should wear them when the skipper requires it, such as crossing a bar, or in extreme weather. In the Waikato, council bylaws require everyone in a boat under six metres to wear a lifejacket while underway.

"We also recommend that kayakers, stand-up paddle boarders, waka ama paddlers and canoeists wear a lifejacket at all times," Mr Makiha said.

### Jetski rules

You must be 15 or older to drive a powered vessel capable of travelling faster than 10 knots.

You must not go faster than 5 knots when within 50 metres of another vessel or person in the water and within 200 metres of the shore, a dive flag or any structure.

Life jackets of the correct size and fit for each person on board a vessel (including jet skis), must be stowed on board if not being worn.

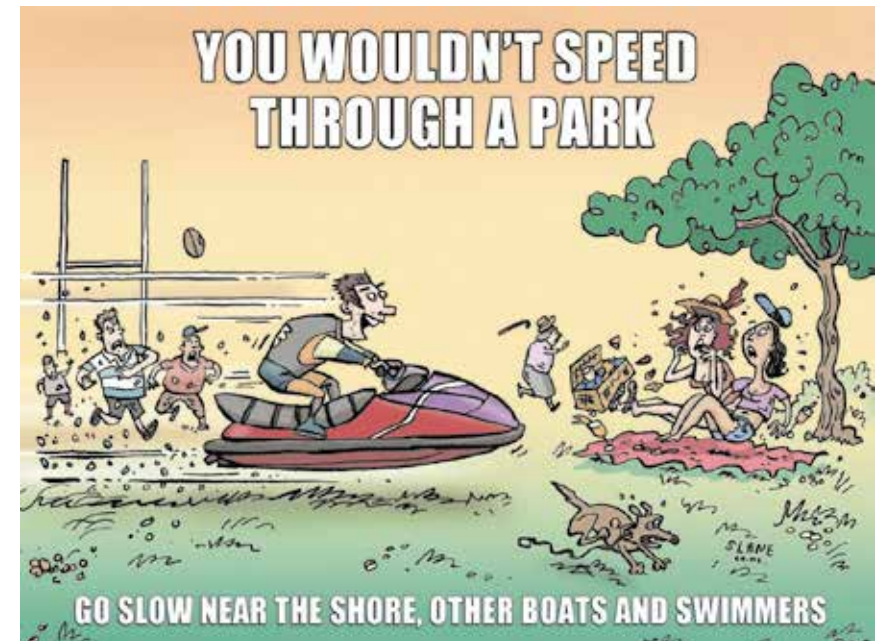
The wake of your vessel must not cause danger or damage to other vessels or water users.

When skiing/towing there must also be an observer aged over 10 years on board – it takes three to ski.

The person being towed must wear a life jacket.

You can be fined \$200 for breaching any of these rules.

***Any member of the public, observing any breaches of these bylaws should record any details (time, place, description of vessel & persons, vehicle & trailer registrations) and then please contact Bay of Plenty Lakes Harbourmaster and Maritime team 0800 884 880***



## The Lake Okareka Volunteer Rural Fire Force

Another festive season has rolled around and summer is almost upon us.

The usual November downpours will create an abundance of growth (called fine fuels) such as long grass and new foliage which are easily combustible as they dry out over the summer months. When we enter a prohibited fire period, which I'm sure we will come late January/February/March, this fuel loading will be at its optimum for burning hence I request that any smoke seen around the village and surrounding areas are reported via the 111 emergency system as soon as possible. Any delays in attending vegetation fires can be catastrophic given the volatility of these fine fuels.

Please also remember that we are now in a restricted fire season which means no open flame fires of any sort are allowed (rubbish fires, barbeques, braziers, etc.) without a fire permit. If you obtain a permit for a fire, please adhere to all conditions specified in the permit.

With the arrival of warm summer nights, there is an increased likelihood that fires on the foreshore of the lake may occur. Often people may not be aware of the current fire restrictions. However, we are aiming to use part of our Wednesday night training over summer to visit campsites and raise awareness.

We have had a fairly busy year this year and are currently sitting on 41 call-outs, several of which have been structure fires with fortunately no fatalities as most buildings had smoke detectors installed. This provides a timely reminder to ensure your smoke detectors are in good working order and to get your chimneys swept after winter.

As you may or may not be aware, the speed limit has been lowered from 100km to 50km starting at the DOC reserve at the Blue Lake to just inside Okareka Loop Road. Given the number of people using the Blue Lake frontage, it is not surprising that this has been implemented.

We had a hugely successful inaugural Guy Fawkes celebration at Boyes Beach on 5 November. It was a bit disappointing to observe a local resident with obvious intentions of stealing some of our firewood collected for the bonfire. It's a pity we didn't catch him red-handed as a guy for the bonfire would have come in useful! Given the inclement weather on the night, it was fantastic to see so many locals turn up and support the Fire Force with this event. A big thank you to Dennis Falconer who donated the fireworks and set-up the display which was nothing short of spectacular! Thanks also to Mike and Sandra Goodwin for donating their time to ensure the lake closure was adhered to.

Two weeks later, we were also fortunate to have the talents of Zane, Degge and Imogen available to put on a show of acrobatics and juggling at the fire station for the community. For those who don't know, Zane and Degge were semi-finalists in the New Zealand's Got Talent show. Together with Imogen they tour around the country during their holiday breaks from university and put on shows at schools. (Thanks to Chester Boyes for providing photos of the talent show and Guy Fawkes evenings.)

Early December a group of Lake Okareka firefighters will be putting on their own show by attempting the Goat run from the Whakapapa to Turoa ski fields. We have also got six members entered into the Firefighter Sky Tower Stair Challenge in May 2015 for Leukaemia and Blood Cancer New Zealand. Fundraising for this event is

now underway to assist with the research, education and support services that Leukaemia and Blood Cancer New Zealand carry out. Donations can be made for the Lake Okareka Rural Fire Force team online at the following website: <http://firefightersclimb.org.nz/>.



Finally, with the summer holidays not too far away, please take care on the roads if you are travelling, and have a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

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







## LAKE OKAREKA 2015 SUMMER TROUT FISHING TOURNAMENT

To be held on Lake Okareka from 5:00am – 3:00pm  
SATURDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2015

**Prize Categories:**

Heaviest Trout – Adult Male  
Heaviest Trout – Adult Female  
Heaviest Trout – Junior Male  
Heaviest Trout – Junior Female

**Registration:**

Lake Okareka Lakefront Friday 27th February 5–7 pm

**Entry Fee:**

Adult \$15.00 Junior \$10.00

**Weigh In Time:**

Saturday at Lake Front 3 – 4 pm  
Prize giving to follow with BBQ & Refreshments  
Lolly scramble and spot prizes at the prize giving

Any prize donations would be gratefully accepted and given out as spot prizes after the main prize giving.  
Contact Dean Foster on 3628 960 if you have any queries. Good luck to everyone!!



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Hello everyone. The end of year countdown has begun – and a good time to start planning next winter’s holiday.

I've just returned from Niue, an amazing destination – with so much to do for a small island. It is not your traditional “beach blob” holiday spot, but if you enjoy exploring – there are great caves and amazing tracks to get to the water’s edge, mountain bike trails and fantastic fishing. They tell me the locals catch marlin from their outrigger canoes, 300 metres offshore. Now that would be a sight to see! There is a good range of accommodation from resort to self-catering and a sprinkling of local restaurants.

We can still look at the traditional beach holiday spots – Rarotonga, Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Tonga and Tahiti. Let's not forget Hawaii either - I spent three weeks there in Aug/Sep this year and totally loved it.

So for some first-hand knowledge and experience come in and talk to me or any of the team.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous new year. Donna Soler.

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## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS—STEVE AND MARGOT GOODIN

Steve and Margot Goodin of Wattle Grove (my Husband’s first subdivision, those who live there are probably delighted it is not a full width road and has a circular turnaround at the end with a beautiful Kauri in the 2 metres to the farm boundary).

Margot was the 4<sup>th</sup> baby born in Okareka after her sister Jane, my son Henry and Wendy Campbell from the local store. Her birth was a great delight to us all at Okareka. Her parents Martin and Peggy Bannister lived on Acacia Road with a great view of the farm, but the family property has recently been sold. Margot grew up here and after schooling went to Auckland to Teachers' Training College in Epsom where she met Steve.

Steve was born in Milford, went to Auckland University for his BSc. and then on to Teachers' Training College in double quick time as he did anything up to 13 papers a year. Not many I know do that - head down bottoms up and not many parties, I guess!! He started teaching at Howick College and had his bond paid off in 2 years!!! They married in 1986 and have been together for 38 years. They have 2 children; Ellen 26, who is married to Scott McEwen and lives in Rotorua and Kristopher 24, currently in Slovenia.

Margot graduated in 1978 taught in Auckland and Rotorua and then took 10 years off for her babies whom she breast fed for 2 years each. What an amazing start for any child! She went back to work in 1998 at Elstree Kindergarten and is there now doing what she does best. Margot is passionate about what she does - teaching 3 to 5 year olds and getting them ready for school. Helping them to be calm, connected and emphatic. I think because she is so good at what she does she probably gets the “tricky” ones and has great success with them as she is very professional about behaviour management.

Steve on the other hand is into technical things that are practical and useful. He is currently working for Toi te Ora Public Health doing important things like drinking water assessment, border surveillance of mosquitoes and monitoring asbestos removal. We need people like Steve to look out for us.

Steve and Margot both love the bush and outdoors and have planted many trees and looked after the bush in the scenic reserve on their boundary. They have enjoyed lots of tramping in New Zealand including The Heaphy and Wangapeka tracks.

Steve is a great cook even in the bush with his dried chicken, curries and home-made baked beans and also a bit of a wine buff. Good wine is a necessary part of their kayaking adventures too, heaven knows what they discard for this !!!

As Margot says, teaching is in her blood. Her great grandmother Bannister trained at the Froebel Institute and her grandmother Williams did wonderful things in education such as creating Te Aute College. Recently Steve and Margot have given to the Williams Memorial Museum a George 1<sup>st</sup> silver chalice that could well have been one that Rev. Williams used in the Bay of Islands when he arrived in New Zealand in 1823.

They have recently had an amazing month in Vietnam, hence the photo and I was given 'Weasel Coffee' which they brought back from Nga Trang. They have a very friendly burmese cat named “Meo” who catches rabbits and is thoroughly spoilt.

Written by Fenella Playne







## NEWSLETTER—DECEMBER 2014

Welcome to our new families Jake Russ with Mum and Dad Sheryl and Kendall, Jack Clark with Mum and Dad Kama and John, and Harrison Trass who joins his brother Sam. We had a farewell for Fransisca Marshall and Zoe Gellatly who have graduated to school this term. Happy School Days. Thank you to Neil and Kat Gellatly for their past support.

### Learning at Preschool

The children went to the Lynmore School junior production and enjoyed seeing many past students perform, we were all very proud of their efforts, they are all stars. We have begun enjoying creating decorative art for the Christmas season and learning our Nativity songs. The children tend to the vegetable garden and recycle food scraps to the worm farm.

### Sustainability Project—Lake Okareka Preschool Community Garden

We have enjoyed a day of planting our new fruit trees in the orchard garden, with the help of children, parents and teachers. This was a great learning experience empowering children to engage in the wonder of working with nature and the living world. To finish off we had our farewell mat time and sausage rolls for our busy workers. Thank you to everyone who contributed and will ensure the garden produces well to share with everyone.



### Driveway

We are very pleased with the improvements to our driveway and are sure this is a safer and more pleasant place to drive in to. Special thanks LOCA and Guy Gaddum Contractors for a fantastic effort.



### Boyes Beach collections over summer roster

Parents from preschool will be helping LOCA with the Boyes Beach collections over summer and we appreciate LOCA's support of the preschool.

### Recycling paper and cardboard

The bin gets emptied Thursdays during the school terms. Thank you for caring for the environment and supporting Preschool.

### Thank you desert evening for our local artists

We held a thank you desert evening for the generous artists who contributed their art to our Cocktail evening this year. Thank you also to Mistress of Cakes and Grace Bruere for their delicious baking.

### Nativity play on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December

We are all getting excited about our Nativity play telling the story of Christmas. The children are sure to delight you with their songs and role play on the night. Thank you to our wonderful teachers for another great event and to Leslie for being our Narrator. We need to remind everyone about respecting Santa Claus by ensuring the older children are supervised to let Santa carry out his visit and lolly scramble. **Sadly in the past the children have wanted to help Santa along with physical support that Santa would rather not have this year.**

Enrolment enquiries can be made to [office@lakeokarekapreschool.co.nz](mailto:office@lakeokarekapreschool.co.nz), visit our website on [www.lakeokarekapreschool.co.nz](http://www.lakeokarekapreschool.co.nz) like us on Facebook.

We close for our Christmas break on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December and reopen on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015. On behalf of the Teachers and the Board of Lake Okareka Preschool we wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas.







Thanks to Mike Vincent for supplying the Nativity photos.

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## Lake Okareka Community Assn (LOCA) Annual General Meeting (AGM)

is to be held on

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2015 from 7.00 pm**

in the Lake Okareka Community Hall

All property owners and people living at Lake Okareka are welcome to attend

**Please note:** that the date for the AGM has changed significantly!

### Nominations for LOCA Committee

These can be taken ahead of the AGM, or they can be made by **financial** LOCA members at the AGM. If you would like to be elected for the LOCA Committee, and you are unable to attend the AGM, please use the Nomination Form below and either hand or post to the LOCA Secretary.

If you have a matter that you would like discussed at the LOCA AGM, please feel welcome to come along and raise it at the AGM. Alternatively, if you are unable to attend the meeting, please contact the Chairman Geoff Palmer 362 8379 or any of the Committee members – names and contact details are inside front cover of “The Newsletter” and pass on the matter(s) you would like raised.



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## TIKITAPU SCENIC RESERVE PEST CONTROL PROGRAMME

A big thank you to all those who have helped with the Tikitapu Pest Control Project this year. The project depends on your assistance. As well as the main working bees, the roster for checking and maintaining the Mistletoe and Nature walks has continued. Parents and children from the Kiwi Conservation Club have once again looked after the monitoring on rat line 1. We appreciate having their involvement and the introduction of youngsters to this type of conservation work.

The pest control project for 2014 is now complete. The toxins of Pindone and Feratox® (cyanide) were used again this year, and the results have been satisfactory as shown on the chart below. The ? for the number of marsupials is because we awaiting an expert second opinion on one wax tag, as to whether the bite is a large rat or a small marsupial!

The number of kills found was 67 possums, 2 young possums, 6 wallaby and 1 rat. Prior to baiting a trapper also got 22 possums and 1 rat.

		Rats Pre Baiting	Rats Post Baiting	Possum/ Wallaby Pre Baiting	Possum/ Wallaby Post Baiting
2011	Pindone and Feratox® pellets	46%	2%	20%	12%
2012	<b>no pest control</b> - 78 possums & 63 rats trapped pre monitoring	31%		29%	
2013	Pindone and Feratox® strikers	70%	42%	21%	41%
2014	Pindone and Feratox® pellets	59%	16%	39%	?7% ?8%

The caution period for the reserve will continue until the signs are taken down, approximately 4 months after the stations were cleared at the end of September.



This time is required for the complete decomposition of the carcasses and degradation of the bait. Until the signs are removed please do not touch any carcasses and remember to keep dogs out of the reserve at all times.

The annual monitoring of bird activity in Tikitapu Reserve, to determine if bird abundance is increasing as a result of the pest management strategy that is carried out in the Reserve, has now been completed. Counts at each of the 26 established stations were undertaken during November and shared by twelve volunteers. With a minimum of three counts per station this entailed quite a number of early morning hours. This year the 20 stations within the Tikitapu Re-

serve were supplemented with a further six stations in a nearby area of bush where there has been no pest control for comparison. Although the data is still being collated we can see that there are lots of tui, bellbirds and grey warblers in the Reserve. Other birds commonly recorded include tomtits, whiteheads, both shining and long-tailed cuckoos, chaffinch, silvereyes and fantails. Less frequently heard were kingfisher, wood pigeon, eastern rosella and blackbirds and a number of others. A comprehensive report, including comparisons with counts made in previous years will be prepared for the Bay of Plenty Regional Council which supports the pest control programme.

New volunteers are always welcome and if anyone is interested in being involved in the pest control programme, or going on the roster to check the Nature and Mistletoe walks please let me know.

Frances Blakely

Phone: 3628 480 or email: [blakelys@xtra.co.nz](mailto:blakelys@xtra.co.nz)

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## BLUE LAKE MULTISPORT FESTIVAL 2015

On the **weekend of 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January 2015** (Auckland Anniversary Weekend), the Rotorua Association of Triathletes (RATS) will be running their flagship fundraising event at the Blue Lake (Tikitapu).

The following events will be held:

<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2015</b>		<b>Start Time</b>
Aquathon	5.5km run / 800 m swim	8.30am
Kids Triathlon	100 m swim/2km off road cycle/1 km run	11.00am
Open Water Swim	2 km or 750 m distance	5.00pm
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2015</b>		
Sprint Triathlon	750m swim/16 km road cycle/5.5 km run	8.30am
5.5 km fun run / walk		8.30am

The Sprint Triathlon on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2015 will be run around the Lake Okareka Loop Road, anti clockwise twice, while other road users will travel in the opposite direction, clockwise.

Road closure: Okareka Loop Road and Tarawera Road will be closed to traffic in one direction.

Detour: Traffic will travel towards Tarawera via the Loop Road and towards Rotorua on Tarawera Road.

When athletes are off the roads, the site will be dismantled. The last bike will be off the road by 10.30 AM.

A rural delivery drop informing residents in Lake Okareka and Lake Tarawera will take place in January.

Margaret Armstrong  
Blue Lake Multisport Organiser

07 3323345  
marg.armstrong@yahoo.co.nz



## TARAWERA ULTRAMARATHON SATURDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2015

This is a heads-up to Lake Okareka residents that the Vibram Tarawera Ultra marathon is coming, and it is an opportunity for this community to be involved as up to 1000 competitors will be running through Lake Okareka community on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2015. This international event now has government support for the next 3 years. Check out the web site Tarawera Ultra Marathon.

The runners will be running down through the Lake Tikitapu Scenic reserve from Lake Tikitapu to the Okareka settlement, emerging from the reserve just before the culvert on Loop Road.

The organisers intend to try to manage the Lake Tikitapu (Blue Lake) and Lake Okareka legs of the event differently this year – with parking of supporters at Lake Tikitapu and bussing them to Okareka – there will just be too many supporters' vehicles for the Boyes beach area to comfortably take. The organisers will need volunteers to help with parking cars and general traffic management at Lake Tikitapu and on Tarawera Road.

Think of ways that you could be part of this event – perhaps offering your services as a volunteer with traffic management, or with a boat on Lake Tarawera for safety of participants or maybe with having a food stall at Boyes beach for the supporters who come to support a participant in the event – or just getting out on Loop Road or Steep Street to cheer the runners on. What about some colour along the way? Banners or flags for people to wave? This is a big event for Rotorua and the Lakes area.

If you want to offer support please contact Tim Day who is the Rotorua organiser for the event.





## DECEMBER 2014 REPORT

It is nearing the end of 2014 and Landcare Okareka volunteers have had a busy year with numerous plantings around Lake Okareka. Have you been to have a look at Taumaihi reserve at the end of Acacia Road recently? Or have you walked down Summit Road and through the plantings to Okareka Loop Road? The growth of the new plantings in both areas has been really incredible and it is really pleasing to hear the bird life in these places – as well as all around Lake Okareka.

The impact of all of the pest control work that is happening around Lake Okareka is having a positive impact on the biodiversity in the area. There is of course the animal pest control work that Forest & Bird Rotorua branch volunteers (some of whom are also Landcare Okareka volunteers) are doing in Lake Tikitapu Scenic Reserve. This work is supported by all of the local Okareka settlement householders who have purchased bait stations and are keeping them filled with bait regularly. The bait supplied by Bay of Plenty Regional Council is managed by Landcare Okareka.

And of course the other project is the trapping programme around the wetland marginal areas of Lake Okareka, which is managed by Mike Vincent and his team of trappers. This project has support from both Landcare Okareka and Lake Okareka Community Assn. The team have trapped over 230 rats since they started in September 2013. The guys are currently trialling some different bait in the traps and are trying to catch more mustelids (stoats and weasels) as well as rats. LOCA has obtained a further 20 trapping boxes and will be purchasing more traps for these.

We are also hoping to have a few more volunteer trappers join the team to help with this very worthwhile project. The aim is to protect the wetland birdlife, especially the rare and endangered dab chicks. It will be interesting to see what the autumn dab chick counts show for Lake Okareka. Well done to everyone who has taken part in any of these animal pest control projects around Lake Okareka – the native biodiversity - birds, insect life, bats and plants - of the area are all benefitting from your work! Maintenance of plantings and reserve areas is always on-going. Weeds, like rust, never sleep. Seedling willows, cherries, dogwoods along with blackberry, gorse, ivy and jasmine, spindle berry and Old Man's Beard are all target species for weed control around Lake Okareka. Landcare Okareka has the support of Rotorua District Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Department of Conservation to undertake this weed control work in the local reserves. So don't be surprised to see some of the Landcare Okareka Volunteers out around the area undertaking this work over the next few months.

I wish all of the Landcare Okareka volunteers and supporters a safe and happy Christmas season. We will see everyone at Lake Okareka working bees in the New Year 2015!

Sandra Goodwin

## DAB CHICK ARTICLE

The trapping around the Walkway, the jetty arm and Boyes Beach is still working well and to date we have caught 233 rats. Currently there are three pairs of Dabchicks with young in the Jetty arm, juvenile Pied Stilts along the walkway, baby Scaup at Boyes Beach and ducklings all over the place so hopefully less rats will help with their survival.

DOC did not hold a spring count this year; the next count will be in the autumn. During this count we hope to also include the Blue Lake. Please remember you can help the birds by having bait stations on your property, keeping dogs out of the raupo and not speeding close to the shore if out boating.

Mike Vincent and Dave Scott



## TIMMS POSSUM TRAPS DECEMBER 2014



These Bay of Plenty Regional Council funded Timm's possum traps, are available on loan to any Lake Okareka residents, if you contact Sandra and 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 to 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 and 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 3628 865.



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## HELP – VOLUNTEERS WANTED!!

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 7.45 am 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 7.00 pm to about 8.00 pm. We would love to hear from you.

Both “shifts” involve “checking in” campers or 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. 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.



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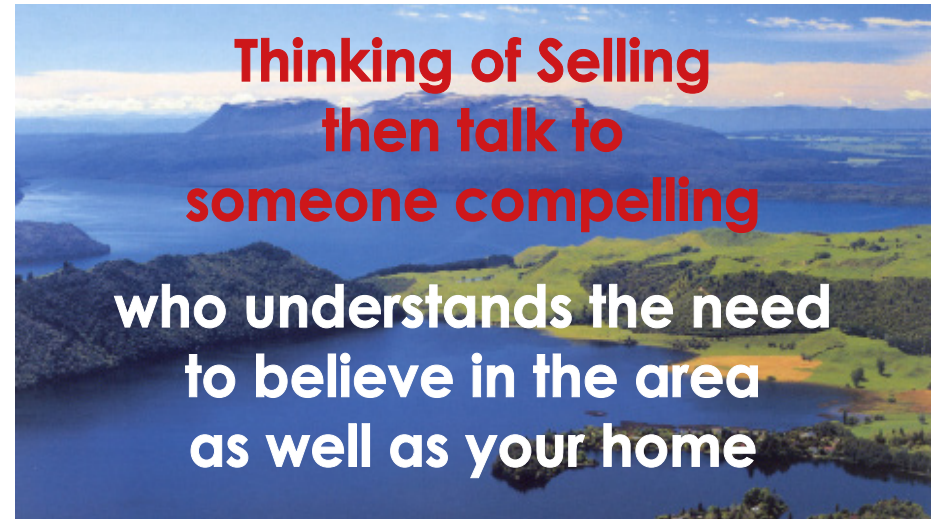
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Lake Tarawera Playcentre is situated at 10 Alexander Road and during term time we have sessions on Monday and Thursday 9.30 am to 12.00pm. We are a parent lead early childhood centre for children from birth to age six.

This term Francisca has graduated from PC, she turned five and joined the school community—happy school days to you—we will miss you.

Our children have enjoyed trips to the local community garden, lots of our outside play, dress ups, messy play and art work. We have all been busy getting our abacus art ready for Christmas. Some of us also had trips to MIGS, thanks to Hamurana playcentre for organizing.

We had our main fundraiser Spring Fair—thank you to everyone who came and supported us during the day. Also our annual working bee was successful and our centre is looking very tidy. A big thank you to our local council that did a major tidy up in the outside of the centre by cutting all the big bushes and trees.

ERO came to visit us on 30th October and we are awaiting for their report which will be available soon. Feedback given to us was very positive.

Our AGM was held on 14th of October. We celebrated another good year with a glass of wine and good food.. We filled our positions for this coming year. Thank you to all our playcentre families for all the hard work you put into keeping the centre going.

Our Christmas party is on Sunday 14th of December at 9.30am with a special visit from Santa. Please bring a small present for your child attending.

Feel free to contact us by email [tarawera.playcentre@gmail.com](mailto:tarawera.playcentre@gmail.com) or phone us on 3628 748 or 3628 055 during session times.





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Half page: \$50

Full page: \$90

All advertisements will continue to be printed in full colour.  
Lake Okareka Community Association

## 2015 LAKE OKAREKA COMMUNITY TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Please make the following changes to the directory:

Page 1 Boyes Chester & Nick now 11 Millar Road

Page 3 Gurran Paul & Adele should be 1 Pryce Road

Page 6: Van der Maas should be Jo & Murray

Page 8: Careen Wellness should be Careem Wellness Spa

If there are any other errors, my apologies—please phone Carol on 3628 702 with corrections or email [carolcp@vodafone.co.nz](mailto:carolcp@vodafone.co.nz)

### EVENT LAKE, RESERVE AND ROAD CLOSURES DECEMBER 14 TO APRIL 15

Start Date	End Date	Event	Location	Reserve	Road Closure / Usage
13/12/14	13/12/14	Rotorua Half Ironman	Blue Lake and surrounding roads	Blue Lake	Road usage is required. Cyclists will be on Tarawera Rd between Blue Lake and Lynmore. At approx 6am the cycle section starts and heads out to Rotoma then returns via Iles and Selwyn roads. Cyclists should be off the road by 12:30pm. Runners are on Tarawera Road between Blue Lake and Te Mu Rd.
17/1/15	18/1/15	Blue Lake Rowing Regatta	Blue Lake	Blue Lake Reserve and DOC Reserve	There will be traffic control (signs/marshals) on Tarawera Rd by Blue Lake. Traffic control in place both days from 6am until 5pm.
24/1/15	25/1/15	Blue Lake Multisport Weekend	Blue Lake	Blue Lake Reserve	Temporary closure of roads. From each intersection of Okareka Loop Road, southerly direction only (a detour will be in place) 8:30am - 10:00am
07/02/15	07/02/15	Tarawera Ultramarathon	No lake closure or use 100k, 50+ mile (85km) or 60km trail ultra. distance run from Rotorua to Kawerau	Boyes Beach	No road closure required. There will however be runners on Tarawera Rd by the Blue Lake, then on Okareka Loop Rd, Calder Rd, Okareka Loop Rd, Steep St and Millar Rd. Approx times 6:30 - 7:30am.
01/03/15	01/03/15	NZ Water Ski Racing Association – 100 mile race	Blue Lake	Blue Lake Reserve	No road closure required
23/03/15	27/03/15	National Secondary School Waka Ama Regatta	Blue Lake	Blue Lake Reserve	This event will be using the Rotorua Ski Club. There will be event and traffic turning signs on Tarawera Rd. Blue Lake Reserve is used for parking each day
11/04/15	11/04/15	XTERRA Rotorua Festival	Blue Lake	Blue Lake Reserve	There is a full road closure of Tarawera Rd between each end of Okareka Loop Rd, 6am - 5:30pm. Runners / Walkers on Tarawera Rd, 8am, between Blue Lake and Green / Blue Lake Lookout. This section of road is closed for 5 minutes.

Rotorua District 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](mailto:major.events@rdc.govt.nz)

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