



# **THE NEWSLETTER**

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

**April, May and June 2016**

**[www.lakeokareka.org](http://www.lakeokareka.org)**

# The Newsletter

of the

Lake Okareka Community Association (LOCA)

## Issue 2, June 2016

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### **Your Committee:**

<b>Geoff Palmer</b>	<b>Chairman</b>	<b>3628 379</b>	(Chair Rotorua Lakes Community Board)
<b>Sandra Goodwin</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>3628 865</b>	
<b>Bryan Walford</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>3628 224</b>	
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<b>Cor Papenfus</b>	<b>3628 235</b>	<b>Harry Van der Merwe</b>	<b>3628 835</b>

### DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

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

Front cover: A couple of Mondays ago the Preschool walked to the bus stop to meet "The Duck Boat". Everyone got on board and went by road to the jetty. As the children put it 'it was like a transformer' from the road to the water. Our driver Sean Russel let some of the children drive the boat on the lake. Everyone had fun especially with the duck whistling all the way back to preschool. Pictured:

In front: Anjoescha Stevens and Ariadne Plessas-Kafantaris

Middle row: Abbey Garden, Nastassja Stevens, Jake Russ, Harrison Trass, Maddie Kilmister, Eva Marshall, Olive Trass, Riley Neill, Lucie Bradley, Paige Harrison, Jack Bray, Matthew Wallace, Jasper Herbert and Jerome Assen

Back row: Lamees Stevens, Shelley Garden, Sheryl Henman, Sean Russel, Sarah Harrison, Bruce Hayward, John Herbert and Debbie Hayward.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT—JUNE 2016



Greetings from the LOCA committee and a welcome to winter!!

Firstly once again congratulations to the **Lake Okareka Volunteer Rural Fire Force** on their team winning performance for the third consecutive year at the Sky Tower Stair challenge in Auckland. Led by Phil Muldoon the seven man team ran up the fifty one floors carrying 25kg of equipment and raised \$5418 for Leukaemia and Blood Cancer NZ.

The other good news is that we finally have full **Mobile Phone Coverage** at Okareka, Tikitapu and Tarawera. The consortium of Vodafone, Spark and 2 Degrees are using the same tower and there is also improved broadband reception. There are still “black spots” on Spencer Road at Tarawera but the engineers are confident these can be eliminated.

In the light of the availability of mobile phone coverage in the area a LOCA circular was recently delivered or posted to all property owners at Lake Okareka asking for an update on their **address, phone, and email** contact details. We received a good response and are now better able to improve communications with the community. Thank you.

The committee continues to be concerned with **Vehicles Speeding** in the residential area and illegal parking where there are yellow lines on the road (Loop Road). Council's Road Safety Coordinator is currently preparing a report on appropriate signage and other measures that can be considered to ensure possible accidents at the school bus stops etc are minimized. The traffic problems are of course greater over summer and in particular when lake/road closures for events are in place.

Council are currently meeting with all communities to ensure there are minimal problems when the new **Waste Strategy** contract becomes operative on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The new contractor is **Smart Environmental** and in future there will be a change from the current paper rubbish bags to wheelie bins and/or plastic bags for both rubbish and recycling items. The changeover will take time and should be completed by the end of October. The Tarawera recycling/transfer station will be retained and expanded as Tarawera will not have wheelie bins nor a bag pick up service so residents and visitors will be required to drop off their rubbish/recycling themselves. This is necessary due to narrow winding Spencer Road not being suitable for a large truck pick up.

**Public Reserves** Tikitapu, Boyes Beach, Jetty lakefront etc will have separate wheelie bins and recycling for rubbish, glass and plastics etc. It is Council's intention that as these reserves are important to the up market image of the Rotorua lakes that attract many visitors and tourists more attractive waste containers will be provided.

The **DOC campground** and **Boyes Beach** reserve benefitted from the great summer weather and financial returns were ahead of the previous year. There were also many favourable reports from campers on the cleanliness and management of the DOC camp making it all worthwhile for the camp wardens.

The Rotorua Council appears keen to promote **Freedom camping** in Rotorua however there have been problems in other parts of the country with illegal camping

resulting from the rubbish and lack of toilets etc. The Rotorua Lakes Community Board represents the residents at Tarawera, Lake Okareka, Rotoiti, Rotoma and Rotoehu and whilst the Board acknowledges that freedom camping is not illegal we believe we are well served by campgrounds around the lakes and these should be promoted for “overnight parking in public places” and not to promote freedom camping. The Rotorua lakes deserve better. N.B. The writer currently chairs the Community Board.

The availability of **Cell phone** coverage at the lakes will be a very real asset to both the campers at Lake Okareka and the camp wardens as there is always the possibility that problems may arise with vehicles not starting, medical, disruptions from undesirables and safety etc.

The other new asset that we are all looking forward to is the **walking track from Boyes Beach to the DOC camp**. Whilst not finished as yet it is already being well used by the campers, Lake Okareka and Rotorua residents. Comments to date have all been extremely positive and whilst it has taken a number of years to get to this point we all owe a very big thank you to Landcare Okareka, all the volunteers that have been involved, the trusts for their financial contributions, staff from the Lakes Council, staff from DOC and of course the “A” team of Brian Law, Mike and Sandra Goodwin.

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

Geoff Palmer, Chairman



- |                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
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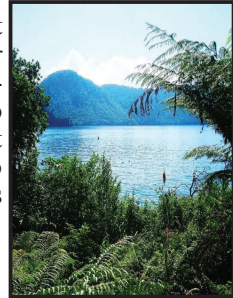
## LAKE OKAREKA WATER QUALITY UPDATE

Lake Ōkāreka is one of 12 Rotorua Te Arawa lakes that are protected and restored for the enjoyment and use of present and future generations under the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme (RTALP). The RTALP is a partnership between Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Te Arawa Lakes Trust and Rotorua Lakes Council with funding from Ministry for the Environment.

This update is to let you know what is being done and what can be done to enhance the water quality for Lake Ōkāreka.

### ***What is being done?***

A report was done back in 2012 to find out the nutrient reductions needed to reach and sustain the desired water quality level for Lake Ōkāreka. Professor David Hamilton from the University of Waikato is doing more work to establish nutrient inputs to the lake. The results of that work will give us an idea of what more we might need to do, and will be presented to the community. (Watch this space for times and dates).



### ***What can be done?***

#### *Land use change*

For the next three years, Regional Council has budgeted over \$600,000 per year to work with landowners to reduce nutrients and improve water quality for Lake Ōkāreka. If you own a large property in the catchment and would like to make land use or land management change that has the potential for reducing nutrient input to the lake phone us on 0800 884 880.

This coming year the Regional Council is also looking at commencing a project to audit Rule 11 benchmarks for properties that have them in the catchment. Establishing current nutrient loss on these properties will also help establish further land use change requirements.

#### ***Gorse***

Last year a fly over of the Lake Ōkāreka catchment was done to capture the amount of gorse on the land. Subsidies are available from 1<sup>st</sup> July to assist landowners with conversion. Over the next year we will use the aerial photography to approach landowners to see if they are interested. If you have gorse on your property that you want help to control or return to trees phone us on 0800 884 880.



#### ***Keep up to date***

“Like” the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme page on Facebook or email [info@rotorualakes.co.nz](mailto:info@rotorualakes.co.nz) to sign up to the RTALP e-news.

Helen Creagh, Rotorua Catchments Manager—Bay of Plenty Regional Council

## TIKITAPU SCENIC RESERVE PEST CONTROL PROJECT

The 2015 Pest Control Project was completed with the removal of the poisons signs at the end of January. There were no problems encountered during the project. This year the Pindone and Feratox® baits will go out early in August and once the stations are cleared in September Feratox® strikers will be put out to target wallaby. It is hoped that the numbers of possums and rats will have been reduced to low levels by then, as when strikers were used in place of the Feratox® capsules in 2013 the rats and possums treated them as toys and destroyed them.

This year's 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 2016**

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

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> and Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

#### **Pre Bait Monitoring**

Trakka cards and Wax tags out – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

Trakka cards in – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July

Wax tags in – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July

#### **Bait laying – Pindone and Feratox® capsules**

Baits out – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August

Top up – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> and Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August

**Clear stations and put out Feratox® strikers** – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> and Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September

**Clear Feratox strikers** - Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> and Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October

#### **Post Bait Monitoring**

Trakka cards and Wax tags out – Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

Trakka cards in – Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

Wax tags in – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October

Bird counts will be repeated in November.

There will be a small amount of infill planting this year – date to be finalised. We would be delighted to have some more people assisting with these projects. Some of our regular volunteers have found the years are catching up on them and they are no longer able to participate in working bees. Lake Okareka is a

great place to live and healthy bush and bird life are a vital part of its attraction.

If you would be interested in helping please contact Frances and James Blakely [jandfblakely@gmail.com](mailto:jandfblakely@gmail.com) phone 3628 480.



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**BAYLEYS**

## LAKE OKAREKA TENNIS CLUB

### Winter Play:

The Club winds down over the winter months. Coaching for children starts again in October for the spring eight week session. This is a great opportunity for new people to Okareka to integrate their children and meet the locals. The season at our Club starts in October.

Family subs remain as being \$100 until October.

### Longstanding Treasurer Resigns

Our longstanding treasurer Hongli Qiu has resigned after over 14 years in the position. The Club expresses its gratitude for the efforts and professionalism over this period. During this time the Club resurrected the courts to a very high standard and a massive growth in Club membership.

Contact for the Tennis club: John 362 8282 [johnbattersby@xtra.co.nz](mailto:johnbattersby@xtra.co.nz)

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## DABCHICKS AND FORESHORE TRAPS

We have not been idle over the last few months and have continued our trapping and also conducted a count of the Dabchicks on Okareka and Tikitapu for DOC. So we have two bits of good news to share.

Firstly the Okareka's Dabchick numbers are holding up. We completed our fourth autumn count in early April and got an average of 63 birds over three early morning counts. This is consistent with the last two years. The Tikitapu counts produced an average of 11 birds.

Year	Average number of birds
2013	44
2014	67
2015	66
2016	63

When we did the autumn count in 2013 we had not started the trapping and I think it is safe to say that the numbers show that the trapping makes a difference. This year's count at Okareka was done by Rod Stace, Jenny Grace, Katie Hodgson, Liz Harding, Steve and Liz Webb, Helen Van Hoof, Dave Scott and Mike Vincent. A special thanks goes to Dave and Grant Phibbs who provided the boats with which we would not have been able to complete the count. Tikitapu was covered by Mike Goodwin and Brian Law.



Dave, Katie & Liz Harding looking for the elusive Dabchicks

It will be interesting to see if the numbers of Dabchicks increases, declines or stays the same. My theory is that we have reached capacity for breeding Dabchicks at Okareka for the following reasons:

- ≡ Dabchicks do not like neighbours;
- ≡ Competition for nest sites. Coots will steal nest sites;
- ≡ Limited breeding habitat, and
- ≡ Disturbance

Hopefully I will be proved wrong and our population will increase.

Our other piece of good news is that we have killed our 600<sup>th</sup> rat which is supplemented by 110 hedgehogs and 27 mustelids (stoats and ferrets).

If you have any questions, suggestions or wish to help please contact Mike Vincent on 0274 781 899.





## LAKE TARAWERA PLAYCENTRE

**Lake Tarawera Playcentre** would like to welcome Karlissa and Maddison, Nicki and Jayden, Katie with George and Jack, and Abi with Arieana and Toby.

Our children's interests have included **process cooking** (cheese scones) and they tasted good! Measuring, reading, numbers, maths, sci-

ence, self-care and team work are just a few things that our children are learning here. From left to right, Thomas Bowyer, Lucy-Belle Eddy, Holly Bowyer and Arieana Rayner kneading their scone dough mixture.



**Sequencing and symmetry** interests are emerging this term! From left to right, Brook Aitken, Harvey Aitken and Lucy-Belle Eddy playing with patterns, sequencing and developing team work.

**Music and Movement session Thursday 30th June**—Lake Tarawera Playcentre will be hosting a Music and Movement session between 10am and 12.30pm. Please come along, with a plate to share and join in the fun.

**Family play** was a big feature earlier in the term, our toddlers and dolls enjoying a soak outside. Toby Rayner is enjoying the warm weather and lucky to have his friends Sophie Bowyer, Holly Bowyer, Thomas Bowyer, Ryker Hunt and Niko Brittain watching on ensuring he and our doll are kept safe in the water. Great water safety and self care learning here.

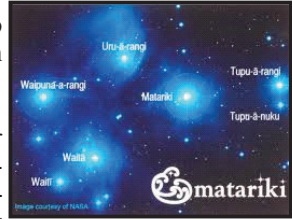


For our **babies** on session we are currently creating treasure baskets for heuristic play. If you want to find out more about please visit <http://www.space.org.nz/about-space/treasure-baskets-and-heuristic-play/>. We are also going to be lucky enough to have a visit from Vicki Kirkland, also known as "The Baby Whisperer". Vicki has a wealth of experience in pre-natal and post-natal care. For more information on Vicki please visit [www.vicki-k.co.nz](http://www.vicki-k.co.nz). Please contact Abi 0278229069 if you would like to come along and join in our session with Vicki on Monday 27th June, between 9.30am and mid-day.

**Matariki** will be recognised and celebrated on session Monday 13th June

with a shared morning tea, and decorating stars to include a picture of a family member no longer with us.

There is always a lot happening as we observe our children and encourage their interests. Each Playcentre offers three free visits so come along and enjoy our sessions. Any enquires or information about visiting our centre please contact Vanessa 3628705. Sessions run from 9.30am to midday at Lake Tarawera Playcentre, 10 Alexander Road, Lake Tarawera, Bay of Plenty 3076.



A big thank you to everyone in the past and present who has contributed to the running of our Playcentre. And not forgetting our Dads who will be helping us with the gardens and general maintenance for our working bee when the weather allows us!

Thank you from all of us at Lake Tarawera Playcentre, we hope to see you soon!



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# The Lake Okareka Volunteer Rural Fire Force

Hi all

I was going to mention the mild weather we have had over the last few months but, given the last few weeks, I'll have to rethink my introduction.

Earlier on this year, Blair Gilbert and myself, along with Her Worship the Mayor, Steve Chadwick, and her husband John, had the pleasure of attending the Trustpower National Community Awards, representing Rotorua with our Youth in Emergency Services (YES) programme in Dunedin at which we were presented with the runner-up award out of 25 finalists from around the country. This is great recognition of a project that started locally and has since been implemented in communities around the country, thanks to the combined efforts of a number of volunteer organisations.

In May, members from the Lake Okareka Fire Force organised a community bonfire at Boyes Beach. It was great to see a good number of locals turn out for this event which provided some warmth and community spirit before the winter days set in. Thanks also to the community for the generous donations made at the bonfire towards the Sky Tower Stair Climb.



The Sky Tower challenge raises funds for Leukaemia and Blood Cancer New Zealand to support victims and their families. Approximately \$1.16 million was raised from the event this year. A total of 850 firefighters from around the country and overseas competed in the challenge, including seven of your local Lake Okareka firefighters, with Lewis Shaw winning the Donned Open section and placing 2nd overall, and Rasmus Munk coming 3rd in the open section and 4th overall. Blair Gilbert and myself placed 1st and 3rd respectively

in the Donned Grand Masters section. The Lake Okareka team took five of the top 12 places and was the fastest team for the third year running. A fantastic effort from everyone – we are looking forward to next year's challenge.

Although the southern hemisphere summer is behind us, conditions in the northern hemisphere are just starting to heat up. Early June, four of the Lake Okareka Fire Force members, along with rural fire crews around the country, were put on standby for a possible deployment to Canada to assist with fire containment efforts. Deployments of this nature are dependent on the personnel needs anticipated by the overseas fire authorities and time will tell if New Zealand crews are required.

In the meantime, with the winter weather just around the corner, please ensure your chimneys are swept and take care on the icy or wet roads.

If you have been thinking about joining the Fire Force, please come down to the fire station at 7.30pm on a Wednesday night when we do training or phone me on 3628874. You can also go to our website: [www.okarekaruralfire.com](http://www.okarekaruralfire.com).

Phil Muldoon  
Chief Fire Officer

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## LANDCARE OKAREKA REPORT—JUNE 2016

Landcare Okareka volunteers have been busy tidying up various places around Lake Okareka over the past few months. We have tidied up the plantings at the toilets at Boyes beach, Steep Street reserve, and Acacia Road. The Lake Okareka Walkway got a really good tidy up, with some family groups helping out - thank you to everyone who came to help. We had our first planting working bee at the Lake Okareka Hall washed out but it was planted and mulched over Queen's Birthday weekend.

Landcare Okareka volunteers have some other plantings to help with this year, such as around the Tarawera Road transfer and recycling station. This working bee is planned for the morning of Saturday 27th August 2016. It will be a joint working bee with volunteers from Lake Tarawera, Lake Okareka and Rotorua Forest & Bird. Everyone who would like to help will be most welcome, as there are around 1600 plants to be put in.

There is some more planting to be done at the entrance to the DOC camp and also down near the end of Acacia Road. The main focus for Landcare Okareka is planting this year which will be along the new walking track from Boyes beach to the DOC camp, once the track in that area is completed.

Another project that Landcare Okareka organises each year is the local Garden Bird Survey. Please look for the article and survey form in this Newsletter.

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](mailto:sgoodwin@actrix.co.nz)



*Brian Law (left) & Andy Eascott (right) mulching the new plantings in the gardens at the hall, Saturday 4th June 2016*



## LAKE OKAREKA PRESCHOOL—JUNE 2016

**Nathan Wallis and the growing Brain** evening for parents was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. We hope some of you got to see Nathan Wallis for his evening presentation. If you did not we will let you know when he is back again next. Davina and Debbie were fortunate to attend his foundation training day.

### Children's learning

Te whāriki is the early childhood curriculum, the learning we do at Preschool links to the goals within the curriculum. Some of the learning over the last week can be identified by the Te Whāriki goal Belonging Goal 2.

The children have been caring for the environment by gardening, removing the summer growth and preparing the soil for the new plants. They are learning about the natural world and how the seasons evolve causing changes around them. They are involved in sharing their goals to be involved in making decisions for their own learning. The programme offers children the opportunity to take Preschool's own penguin home for an overnight stay where children then share their penguin's experience with the group at mat time. Oral language and being creative are promoted daily at Preschool, they are empowered to tell their own story.



Children are encouraged to share their family and whanau with the group at Preschool. Thomas and Holly's Grandma Pam Bowyer came to bake with the children.

**Fostering Creativity in children and what behaviours we should nurture with Jane Healy.** In her book *Your Child's Growing Mind* she lists characteristics of creative people. These are some of them:

- ≡ Seeing patterns and relationships
- ≡ Combining things or ideas in new ways
- ≡ Coming to a decision independently and taking action based on it
- ≡ The ability to shift from one idea to another
- ≡ The ability to take a risk
- ≡ Asking 'what if' questions and making insightful observations
- ≡ Finding enjoyment in thinking and working alone
- ≡ Having a strong intuition – 'seeing' the answer to a problem

Nathan Wallis also talked about encouraging children to be creative thinkers with open ended equipment and he shared with us that Lego was a very popu-

lar choice for encouraging children's creativeness.

Thank you to Rotorua Duck Tours for their generosity taking our children out on the lake. We had a fabulous time again.

Farewell to Holly Bowyer who is graduating to school on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June and Yasmin Skevington who graduates on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June—Happy School Days. Welcome to Gracie Bradley who starts Preschool on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Feijoa cake healthy recipe with Pam Bowyer**

Made by the children and Nana Pam Bowyer, thumbs up Pam!!

Heat oven to 180 degrees, spray and line a 23cm spring form tin.

Ingredients:

½ cup milk

1.5 cups of sugar

1 cup mashed feijoas (about 8)

2 eggs

1 teaspoon vanilla

75 g softened butter

Place the above ingredients into a food processor and process until smooth.

In a large bowl sift in:

2 cups flour

1 teaspoon salt

Pour in the contents of the food processor, mix and pour into a prepared tin. Bake for about 40 minutes until a skewer inserted in the centre comes out clean.

Cool for about 5 minutes in the tin, remove completely and cool on a wire tray. Dust with icing sugar, and serve with yoghurt. Our family like it with cream cheese icing. Yum..



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## LAKE OKAREKA WALKING TRACK REPORT—JUNE 2016

Since the previous report in March 2016, work has continued on Stage 1 of the Lake Okareka Walking Track from Boyes beach to the Department of Conservation camp and day amenity area. As reported previously, **Owen Builders** have been undertaking the construction under contract to Lake Okareka Community Assn of the timber boardwalks. Many people have been going to have a look at the new track taking shape and have commented on the excellent work carried out by **John Owen and his team**. We would also like to thank **Tony and Heather Horton** for allowing John to store materials for the track boardwalks at their property. This has certainly allowed John to undertake the work very efficiently. Owen Builders have not yet completed their work. The track is still under construction—and will be even when Owen Builders have finished the boardwalks—and people should take care when using the track.



*John Owen and his apprentice Mike, building some of the boardwalks on the new walking track between Boyes beach and the DOC camp, Lake Okareka*

The professional construction of the boardwalks has been made possible by several grants received by Lake Okareka Community Assn. The funders were **The Sovereign Trust Ltd, The Four Winds Foundation Ltd, Southern Trust, and Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust**. We thank all of these funding bodies for their generous support of this project.

There has also been a major contribution to this work from the volunteer efforts taking care of the Dept of Conservation camp at Millar Road, Lake Okareka. Thank you to those volunteers.

There is still a lot more volunteer work to happen on the track, with a lot more timber edging to be done and around 250T of gravel to be carried in. We would like to thank **Dennis Falconer** for the use of his barge to carry some of

the edging timber to where it was needed along the track. **Verda International Ltd** have been very supportive towards the project with excellent deals on timber requirements for track edging, pegs, nails, etc.

There will be on going volunteer working bees over the coming months to complete the work on the track. If you are interested to help please contact Sandra or Mike Goodwin 362 8865 or email [sgoodwin@actrix.co.nz](mailto:sgoodwin@actrix.co.nz) to be added to the volunteer email list.

As I said earlier, the track can be walked, but care needs to be taken when doing so. Work is still happening in places—take care if people are at work and obey any signage that is in place. A large section of the track still does not have gravel on it and the Rotomahana mud layer can be quite slippery when it is wet.

Sandra Goodwin



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## FEEDING THE BIRDS

Many residents at Lake Okareka are noticing the increased numbers of birds that are living here. That is happening as a result of all of the pest control work that is being undertaken in the area. The volunteers from Rotorua branch of Forest and Bird with the animal pest control in the Tikitapu Scenic Reserve are doing a great job of enhancing the environment in the reserve, with many more mistletoe plants growing. This work has also resulted in increasing numbers of birds.

This volunteer project is supported by those Lake Okareka residents who have played their part by purchasing rat bait stations and then keeping these topped up with rat bait during the year—see separate article in Newsletter about rat bait. There is also the work that Landcare Okareka volunteers, assisted by other Lake Okareka residents, who have been doing checking on the traps in boxes and targeting mainly rats and mustelids in the riparian areas around the lake.

Many people are also helping by feeding the birds, especially over winter. If you would like to help feed the birds and get pleasure from having birds such as bell-birds, tuis and wax eyes come to your garden, there are several things that you can do. You can make up feeders for sugar water – these can be small dishes or troughs, hung in trees or placed along a deck railing. Or feeders can be made up from a length of larger diameter PVC pipe with holes drilled into it along the length, and end caps to seal the tube. These feeding tubes can be attached using clips to a piece of timber which can then be secured to a deck railing. The recipe for sugar water is around 1/2 cup of sugar per litre of water. Dissolve the sugar first in warm water and then top up with cold water.

You can also make feeding tables for dishes of seeds and nuts; fruits such as ripe apples, oranges or bananas can be fed; dripping can be hung in the red plastic string bags (that garlic comes in) and put up in trees - wax eyes really like this. There are commercially available bird seed feeders— they can benefit from hav-



*Photo supplied by Karyn Lynam*

ing a larger dish, such as a plastic plant pot tray attached to the bottom, to give a larger area for birds to feed.

Wherever you place sugar water, a feeding table, a bird seed feeder or bags of dripping just check that cats cannot get at the birds while they are feeding. More-porks (owls) on the other hand are another story....

Having fresh water available for the birds, especially for bathing in—like a bird

bath—is also a well appreciated item for many birds.

There are many useful places on the internet to look for more information about feeding birds e.g. forest and bird.org. Use a search engine to find some really useful information about feeding birds.

Remember you are just supplementing the birds' normal feed supplies, to help



*Photo supplied by Karyn Lynam*

them over the winter. Enjoy watching the birds come to your garden—and please take part in Landcare Okareka's garden bird survey.

Sandra Goodwin—June 2016

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## GARDEN BIRD SURVEY—CAN YOU HELP US PLEASE?

Thank you to everyone who helped with Garden Bird surveys last year. This year we would like even more locals to take part. Landcare Okareka, as part of carrying out work on measuring the biodiversity of the Lake Okareka area, as part of the Biodiversity Management Agreement that we have with Bay of Plenty Regional Council, would like to undertake a Garden Bird Survey again this year.

It will operate along similar lines to the nationally run Garden Bird Survey which is carried out each year by Landcare Research. You are welcome to 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 **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June to Sunday 3rd July 2016**, 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 25<sup>th</sup> June to 3rd July 2016, 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 on line Garden Bird Survey web site 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 2016.



### ***Tui***

*Sexes are similar; adults black with white tuft on throat*



***Silvereye (waxeye)**  
Sexes similar; small,  
green with white ring  
around eye.*

We look forward to receiving your replies.

We will print the results of the local Garden Bird Survey in a later edition of the Lake Okareka Newsletter.

Landcare Okareka Steering Committee

# LAKES CONTRACTING

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## LOCA SUBSCRIPTION 2016

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

These are carried out 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 and keep informed is here now.

Pop \$20 in an envelope with your name and address, post or deliver it to:

LOCA  
C/- 23 Millar Road  
Lake Okareka  
RD5  
Rotorua 3076

## RAT BAIT AND BAIT STATIONS—WINTER 2016

Thank you to everyone who has been rat baiting over the last few months. Thank you also to those property owners who have recently become involved with the Lake Okareka rat baiting programme. Some of you took note of last Newsletter's advice about changing bait that wasn't being eaten - mouldy bait! Now is a chance to get rid of rats that could still be around that could breed again when the weather warms up. There is still some rat bait available and it is a very good idea to keep the bait stations stocked up to help protect bird life in the area over the next couple of months.

Landcare Okareka is supplied Ditrac rat bait under a Biodiversity Management Plan with Bay of Plenty Regional Council. The rat bait is available to individual property owners, with their own bait stations, to help support enhancing the biodiversity at Lake Okareka. If you are interested to take part, 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 bait away to be stored. The bait 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). 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 \$25. Please give us a call if you would like to purchase a bait station for your property.

**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 (at no charge) or a lockable bait station for \$25, please contact Mike & Sandra Goodwin phone 362 8865, 2 Pryce Road or Rod Stace phone 362 8523, 30 Summit Road or Mike Vincent 362 8376, 11 Branch Road. Please phone first to arrange a suitable time to collect bait or a bait station.**

# Lake Properties Wanted

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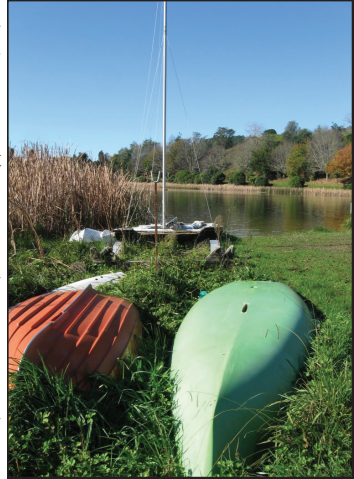
## ABANDONED BOATS AT ACACIA ROAD LAKEFRONT RESERVE

Do you know who owns the various boats and a trailer that have been left at the Acacia Road lakefront area?

This is not referring to the waka ama that gets a work out on the lake on most days—go for it Mr. Jones!

It would be great if these boats and trailer were removed from the site to allow the Rotorua Contracting workers to get in and tidy up the area over winter.

If you have any information about any of these boats or the trailer please contact Sandra Goodwin 362 8865.



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### 2015 LAKE OKAREKA COMMUNITY TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Please add the following to the directory:

Bell, Melanie & Tim	5 Branch Road	3628 673
Coker, Takai & Garry	9 Branch Road	3628 955
Hanson, Dennis & Wendy	42 Summit Road	3628 860
Harvey, Steve & Nozomi	10 Branch Road	3628 260
Walker, Katie & Murray	74 Loop Road	3628 719
Green, Martin & Louisa	19 Loop Road	021 755 725
Weatherley, Liz & Paul	3 Steep Street	021 988 468
Aitkin, A & L	81 Loop Road	

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



## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

**Accommodation**—Ngamihi Lodge Luxury Bed and Breakfast, 6 Pryce Road Lake Okareka, email: [info@ngamihi.co.nz](mailto:info@ngamihi.co.nz)

**Free Trailer Hire** - when you list and sell your property with Ray White Rotorua. For more information phone 07 348 8333.

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**Flowers By Tess Ph: 021 126 0858 or 07 362 8366**—Weddings and Corporate designs - bereavement and floral bouquets. For creative ideas to suit your floral needs.

**Gardens By Tess Ph: 021 126 0858 or 07 362 8366**—Garden designs - Consultation - Planting & Maintenance—Baskets & Containers. Creating designs for your garden setting.

**Marko Services Ph: 027 4925 468 or 07 362 8366**—Bob cat digger - Truck Hire - Landscaping - Drilling & Rock Breaker Hire Earth moving - Rubbish Bin hire sizes 3-9 metre.

**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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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.**

**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.**

**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 2006



### 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY WINTER FISHING COMPETITION JULY 2016

The Fishing Club is celebrating 10 years of hosting the Lake Okareka Trout Fishing Tournament with a winter competition to be held on Lake Okareka from 5:00am Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> to 12:00am Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> of July.

We have trophies with some old Okareka family names on them and would love to see some new names to join them.

**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 8th 4:30–7:30 pm (mulled wine will be on offer)  
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 12pm

**Prize giving:**

Sunday from 1:00pm at the Lakefront

Any prize donations gratefully accepted. Contact Dean on 3628960 or Jason on 3628448 any-time for more information.