



THE NEWSLETTER

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

Website Address: www.lakeokareka.org

January, February & March 2013

The Newsletter

of the

Lake Okareka Community Association (LOCA)

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* Member of Rotorua Lakes Community Board

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

Chairman's Update - March 2013



Greetings from the LOCA committee and as the long dry summer rolls on the lake level continues to fall to a level that few can remember. Our AGM in January was well attended and it was pleasing to note that all the committee were prepared to offer themselves for re-election and also welcome Harm Zuidmeer to the committee. A highlight of the meeting was the endorsement of our new Life Members, Fenella Playne, Dame Dorothy Winstone, Dot Pickenell, Judy Gentles and Jack Smith and also Honorary Member Brian Law.

The rest of my report was included in the AGM presentation but for those people unable to attend the meeting it is a summary of 2012 and projects for 2013.

We have now signed a Contract with DOC to manage the **Lake Okareka Camp Ground** and day picnic area off Millar Road. The agreement is for 6 years (3+3), LOCA will receive 90% of the revenue from the campers and in return be responsible for the maintenance, cleaning and administration costs of the facility. It is important to understand that in the past all monies from DOC campgrounds has been remitted to Head Office in Wellington. This change of policy is to ensure that the bulk of the revenue from the Lake Okareka camp will be used for Lake Okareka conservation related projects and continuing the walking track around the lake is our first priority.

Revenue will to some extent be dependant on weather but the continuing popularity of campervans and camping should result in an annual surplus of \$20/25,000. Where possible we will utilise Okareka contractors for maintenance etc and reimburse volunteers with fuel cards. Whilst this is a major commitment for LOCA we believe it is both an opportunity to work alongside DOC and protect and enhance the reputation of the area as an integral part of a "playground" for residents and visitors to Rotorua.

The volunteer camp supervisors over the very busy past month deserve a special mention and thank you. Mike & Sandra Goodwin, Chris & Helen Russell, Lyall & Judith Beuth, and Marcel & Corrie van Leeuwen, recently joined by Steve & Cheryl Lyons.

The other significant achievement during the year has been the success of the **Lake Okareka Rural Fire Force** in purchasing a new Fire Appliance when Council did not believe funding would be forthcoming for a new unit and were offering another unsuitable second hand engine. We all owe a big thank you to Phil Muldoon and his team who raised the full cost of \$360,000 in a matter of months and we are looking forward to the party when the smart new engine arrives next month.

It is pleasing to note the major improvements to the **Loop/Millar Road entrance to Okareka** with the "Keep Rotorua Beautiful" organisation providing funding (\$4,000) for the attractive mural on the Pump Station fence. The extensive plantings of shrubs and trees by Landcare Okareka and the recent formation of an off road walking track

from the top of Summit Road to the school bus shelter next to the Pump Station all add to the much improved appearance of this area. A number of volunteers and organisations supplying materials and machinery have been involved with the track and special thanks to them all.

We have had some success recently in reducing signage at the boat launch area and now have our own **Community Noticeboard** in the form of a kiosk situated adjacent to the toilet block. Apart from local information we plan to feature history of the area, lake flora and fauna and coming events etc.

We are still planning to work with RDC to upgrade the **picnic, swimming, small boat** area adjacent to the jetty so it is similar to the Steep Street reserve. The weed cordoned area no longer has the weed growth. This has made it more popular for swimmers and kayakers and the fine weather has also resulted in many more boats and people using the area. There is now a need to review the control of the raupo as it spreads towards the jetty and raises safety issues with boats for swimmers and children jumping from the jetty and swimming out to the weed cordon.

Unfortunately **hornwort** has been found in Okareka in the past year and appears to have been well established before the installation of the weed cordon. The Regional Council will shortly be assessing the spread of hornwort and hopefully is able to control its impact on the lake.

The condition of the **walking/cycling track along Acacia Road** from the jetty to the walkway is causing concern and aggravated by the reduced mowing regime adopted by Council. This is on the agenda for the first LOCA meeting of the year.

You will be aware Council have removed the rumble strips at the entrances to the village as they appeared to make little difference to reduce speeds and were also noisy at night. However **Exceeding the Speed Limit** in the 50km area continues to be a concern so please slow down.

Our **Website** has been progressively upgraded in the past year and we welcome suggestions from residents for further improvements.

At last year's AGM there was discussion of the unfair **Property Rates** currently being paid by rural residents to both the District and Regional Councils. Unfortunately they are likely to go higher again shortly as both Councils have now adopted capital value rating and RDC is committed to eliminating the 85% differential between urban and rural property rates. As a result of the recent amendment to **The Local Government Act** both RDC and BOPRC now have the incentive and opportunity to co-operate and rationalise the essential services provided to ratepayers and make it more affordable and therefore attractive to live in Rotorua. This amendment requires local government to "**Provide good quality local infrastructure, public services and regulatory functions in a way that is most cost effective for households and businesses**". Initial reaction for change from our local politicians has not been encouraging and seems to be all about "patch protection". However it is election year so we can but hope for change.

Geoff Palmer
Chair

Plan your winter escape now!



What a fantastic summer it has been – probably the best in years it seems? But the downside to a great summer is WINTER – and what better time to get away and enjoy more warm weather.

I can highly recommend a winter holiday to a huge choice of great destinations – close to home around the South Pacific to popular islands such as Rarotonga, Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu, New Caledonia and Tahiti – a little further afield to Hawaii – now with two airlines flying direct – and any number of the Asian destinations – such as Phuket, Vietnam, Cambodia, Singapore, Hong Kong and Malaysia to name just a few.

Depending on what type of holiday you may need – relaxing on a beach and snorkelling or shopping and culture – there is an ideal place for you to visit!!

House of Travel offer a fantastic range of holiday packages or I can put together an individual itinerary to suit – and look forward to doing so.

Make the most of autumn and start planning your winter escape.

Cheers, Donna

HOUSE OF TRAVEL


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Phone either Jason Ward or Mark Dyer for local, professional and practical advice.

FROM THE OFFICE OF TODD McCLAY

Lake Okareka Community Association

01 March 2013

These first few months of 2013 have been extremely busy – I hope those of you in the Lake Okareka Community have enjoyed a good start to the year. There are some very positive things happening in Rotorua at the moment, in particular surrounding water quality and the clean-up of our lakes.

On Monday 18th February a milestone agreement was signed between Rotorua farmers and Bay of Plenty Regional Council which signals a major turning point in cleaning up Lake Rotorua.

The Lake Rotorua Primary Producers Collective, Federated Farmers and Bay of Plenty Regional Council have signed the Oturoa Agreement - a Memorandum of Understanding agreeing on a way forward to reduce nutrients entering Lake Rotorua while recognising the importance of farming to the local economy. The Collective is made up of dairy farmers, drystock farmers and Te Arawa landowners within Lake Rotorua's catchment.

In November of last year I decided to intervene and work with the rural sector and Regional Council on a solution to their two year court battle over water quality. We negotiated over three months and a deal was struck which has the backing of all dairy farmers in the Lake Rotorua catchment.

The Memorandum sets out the principles and processes to meet nutrient reduction targets. Farmers and the Regional Council will cooperate and collaborate to achieve the sustainable nitrogen load by 2032, with 70 percent of the nitrogen reduction target for the catchment achieved by 2022.

This is a major step forward in restoring the lake to levels of health. Across Rotorua we are starting to see real progress both in policy and in the improving quality of all our lakes. I expect this agreement will be the first of many as the Government continues to focus on getting our waterways back to clean health.

If you would like more information on the Oturoa agreement or water quality initiatives visit my website <http://www.toddmccclay.co.nz>.

TIKITAPU SCENIC RESERVE PEST CONTROL PROGRAMME



Although there was no poisoning undertaken in 2012, volunteers were still busy in the reserve. Alternate bait stations were removed from lines 2–13 giving a uniform 100m x 100m grid throughout the reserve. Lines were all trimmed and some were realigned in places. Some parts of the Ridge track and Saddle track were also realigned. These changes have all been GPSed and Bay of Plenty Regional Council is in the process of doing new maps for us.

This year we will bait again. The toxins to be used will again be Pindone and Feratox (cyanide). There is a possibility of using Feratox Strikers instead of Feratox encapsulated pellets. These may be more effective against wallabies which won't put their heads in the bait stations. Controlled Substance Licences will be renewed and a Refresher First Aid course may be available for those whose certificates have expired.

Bird monitoring took place in November with results in the process of being compiled by First Word in Fauna.

The Department of Conservation has completed re-measuring the Lake Tikitapu Scenic Reserve Mistletoe Foliar Browse Lines which were set up at the start of the Tikitapu Mistletoe Restoration project, to monitor changes in the health and abundance of mistletoe species in the reserve as a result of ongoing pest control. These were last re-measured in 2007. Official results are being compiled. Meantime there is clear anecdotal evidence of an increase in density and distribution of mistletoe. Most plants are new and are spreading in the pest control area linking the Ōkāreka and Tikitapu mistletoe populations.

The roster for checking the Nature and Mistletoe walks each month has worked well and will continue this year. The complete programme for 2013 will be emailed to volunteers once it is finalised. Meantime there will be working bees to start clearing and trimming the lines on Friday 14 & Sunday 16 June, Sunday 21 & Monday 22 July, Friday 16 & Saturday 17 August. This project would not happen without our volunteers. Thank you to all who have been involved last year and we look forward to another successful pest control year in 2013. New volunteers are always welcome. 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

ph. 3628 480

Email: blakelys@xtra.co.nz

NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT

It seems as if we got through the holiday period pretty much unscathed. However, there have been some nasty incidents at the DOC camp with out-of-towners causing a disturbance. It is very difficult to “nip these in the bud” before too much damage is done without telephone coverage at the camp. These incidents were reported to the Police who, credit to them, came out fairly promptly and dealt with some of the people concerned. How much easier it would be if we had cellphone coverage.

Unfortunately there has been graphite damage to the public toilets at Acacia Road Reserve as well as some damage to the picnic tables. If you see graphite artists at work please report them to the police asap. If graphite is reported promptly there is a good chance it can be removed by the RDC experts.

If you would like to join a Neighbourhood Support group please contact me and I will direct you to your nearest coordinator. Likewise if you would like to have your email address on my database I will send out from time to time bulletins on incidents, requests for help locating owners of found items or anything I consider is of a neighbourly matter.

Hope you are enjoying the long hot summer—certainly beats last year.

Lyall Beuth

Phone: 3628 459

e-mail twobeuths@xtra.co.nz

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Annual Report January to December 2012

Landcare Okareka volunteers have experienced another very busy but satisfying year. The group was awarded Bay of Plenty area Weed-busters Award for work on weed eradication on public reserve land. The award covered work carried out by Landcare Okareka previously and especially two particular areas of weed eradication and replanting with native trees – one in the Tikitapu Scenic Reserve – an area parallel to Okareka Loop Rd and opposite Benn Rd - and the other in the Okareka Scenic Reserve above and around the sewage pump station, - an area between Okareka Loop Rd and Summit Rd on the north eastern side of the village.

Landcare Okareka volunteers have also placed 3 donated and repaired picnic tables down at Silver Beach for water skiers and walkway visitors to use.

Landcare Okareka volunteers are really disappointed that Castlecorp have not been able to get here to mow the edges of the walkway from the carpark out to the composting toilets – it was due to be mowed before Christmas and I am disappointed to report that the edge mowing has still not been done. This mowing has been done since the AGM (when this report was presented) and now with the drought there has been very little growth.

Landcare Okareka volunteers have also created a walking track from Summit Rd near Ridge Rd down through and alongside the new plantings down to the bus stop on Okareka Loop Rd. Hopefully this will make walking in this area a bit safer. Since the AGM, metalling of the upper section has been completed at the Lake Okareka working bee in late February.

I believe that the Lake Okareka community owes a huge vote of thanks to the following for the completion of this project:

- **Walter Miller, RDC Parks and Recreation** for his initial support for the whole project and supply of chemicals for weed control and 2 years of plants to revegetate the area
- **Guy Gaddum, an Okareka resident,** for initially providing a digger and rake along with a driver for 2 days for weed eradication in the area, at no cost, and then for transporting gravel for the job and also organising and driving the small road roller and digger - all at no cost
- **Rotorua Quarries** for supplying the gravel at no charge
- **Peter Harding** for driving his digger to form the lower section of the track
- **Roz Hensman from BOPRC** for her support of 2 years of plants for

revegetation

- **Elizabeth Wood, RDC Roading Engineer** for her support of the project and for organising the delivery and installation of culvert pipes up Summit Road (at no direct charge) by Fulton Hogan
- **Team leaders from the Justice Dept and the PD workers** for providing muscle power to help shift gravel to where it needed to go
- **Brian Law** for his work with timber retaining edges and safety fences
- all of the **Landcare Okareka volunteers** for their help with planting and spreading gravel
- **Brian Law and Mike Goodwin** for hours spent with knapsacks and weed whackers both before planting and since
and finally to **Mike Goodwin** for overseeing the whole project.

All we need now is some rain to help with getting the new gravel to compact, and Guy Gaddum will be back with a roller to roll that section. Rain is what everyone is hoping and praying for, and Landcare Okareka is included in that hope—a contrast to last summer!

We thank everyone for their support of Landcare Okareka activities throughout the past 12 months and we look forward to another busy and rewarding year in 2013. Keep an eye out for the sign boards which advertise Landcare Okareka working bees. We always appreciate any help we can get on these days.

Sandra Goodwin
Secretary, Landcare Okareka

PHONE BOOK ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS

Page 1	Delete Add	Burrow P&M Campbell	78 Acacia Rd 78 Acacia Rd	
Page 2	Add Add	Graham Jan & Charlie Falconer DK & ER	82 Loop Rd 64 Loop Rd	0274 948 404 3628 737
Page 3	Change	Hall Tristan & Robyn	15 Loop Rd	3628 687
Page 4	Add Add	Lacey D & M Lardelli	26 Summit Rd	3628 289 3628 242
Page 5	Delete	Roscoe H	49 Summit Rd	
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The Lake Okareka Volunteer Rural Fire Force

What a hot, dry summer it has been (what a contrast compared to last year). Hopefully, with the beginning of autumn, we should soon get some good rainfall. I can't remember a summer when the hills looked quite as brown as they do now.

Thanks to everyone for adhering to the Total Fire Ban that has been imposed by the Rotorua District Council. We have not had a fire-related call-out in our local area since this was instigated.

However, we have attended four vegetation fires outside of our area. Some of these have been quite major requiring 40+ firefighters, helicopters with monsoon buckets, and other resources. The latest of these incidents was at Waiotapu at the beginning of March. Thank you to Okareka members who gave up their Friday afternoon/evening and Saturday to help control and extinguish this blaze, and also for similar time spent at the Reporoa fire prior to Christmas.

In late January, I was deployed, along with a Timberlands crew, as part of a New Zealand Rural Fire Response Team to Great Barrier Island (I always wanted an overseas deployment!). We were away for 8 days fighting a 120 hectare scrub fire on the eastern side of the island. We spent the first few days cutting firebreaks up to 40 metres wide and several kilometres in length. We then focused on extinguishing flare-ups, which was followed by methodical grid-searching for hot spots, aided by thermal imaging cameras, with the crews walking up to 20kms a day. Hot 30 knot winds and dense bush made this work arduous and heavy-going (a good way to lose that Christmas paunch!). The hospitality on the Barrier was second-to-none with locals pulling out all stops to ensure we were well looked after. Fortunately, the containment measures put in place ensured no homes were lost.

As always, these deployments continue to provide invaluable experience in dealing with various fire situations and incident co-ordination which can be put into practice within our own district.

Please continue to be vigilant and call 111 at the first sign of any smoke. As proven in recent incidents, any delay can result in a small fire getting quickly out of control and desecrating several hectares of bush and property.

Regardless of whether we get any rain or not, the lighting of any fire is prohibited until further notice by RDC.

By way of a quick update on the new fire appliance, I recently drove to Wellington to deliver equipment to Fraser Engineering for the final fit-out of the truck. We are now anticipating delivery of the appliance later in March.

For anyone wanting to contact the Fire Force, please phone me on 3628 874 or go to our website: www.okarekaruralfire.com. You can also follow us on www.facebook.com/okarekaruralfire.

Phil Muldoon
Chief Fire Officer

Article from Daily Post on 9 March 2013

Fire force toast glowing record

By Rebecca Malcolm

rebecca.malcolm@dailypost.co.nz

Knees-up marks 30 years with no missed callouts

They may have been late once or twice, but over 30 years of service the Lake Okareka Rural Fire Force has never missed a callout. Chief fire officer Phil Muldoon said that's a pretty unique claim to have, especially for volunteer brigades, and it's something he's pretty proud of. Even this summer—which has been one of the busiest in years — has seen the brigade turnout a full crew of volunteers to all the jobs, from scrub fires to car crashes. So the crew are looking forward to getting their glad rags on and celebrating tonight with a firemen's ball at the Lake Okareka Community Hall.

Within the last week the crew have attended three separate incidents which have seen them spend 40 hours on the ground doing volunteer fire work, while all hold down full-time day jobs. "It's been the busiest summer in years. It's so dry and at any sign of smoke we're getting turned out, and rightly so." They're also one of the first to turn out to community events, from last night's Lynmore School gala to an open day at Te Amorangi Museum and helping out with dust issues at the recent Australasian pistol shooting competition.

Mr Muldoon said the group were lucky that for most callouts they had more volunteers than they needed turn up, from their dedicated group of 14 volunteers. "The other day for a 2am callout we had seven guys turn up for two seats." He said they were fortunate to have a steady team of volunteers. "We have had a few lean times but it's not that difficult to [attract and retain volunteers] if you make it interesting and varied and keep the training up." "Volunteers don't work on rostered shifts — instead it's just up to whoever is available to turn out. "It's proven itself to work." The volunteers reckon understanding employers and families are the key to being able to stay in the role. New recruit Adam McHugh said the rural fire force was a great way to meet people being new to the community while fellow firefighter Blair Gilbert said as well as the excitement of fires and sirens, it was a great way of giving back to the community. And despite the celebrations tonight, there's no rest for the volunteers. Proving their commitment, they have had enough people to crew the trucks volunteer not to drink so they can be on call if they get a callout. "We'll be the best dressed firemen there [if there is a callout]," Mr Muldoon said.

It should be noted there was a callout that evening hence the dress code and sooty faces of some of the fireman!





NEW LOCA LOGO

The Lake Okareka Community Association requires a logo which gives our community an identifiable image to the greater Bay of Plenty, New Zealand and the world. The focus of the logo falls on the identifiable geographic location and a representation of the community it sustains. I have tried to capture the geographic assets of our wonderful lake and surrounds by incorporating the Acacia Peninsula and the Whakapoungakau Range in the background. This image defines what we call home. The third feature in the logo is the jetty. Jetties around the world are strong physical entities in their surrounding communities and our jetty is no different. It's main role is to provide a gateway to our love for water pursuits but it also creates a focus where our community comes together.

The new LOCA logo is planned to appear on the Lake Okareka website which will help to create a link between our community and the wider world. It will also feature on the newsletter and on our local t-shirts.

Harm Zuidmeer
LOCA Committee





LAKE OKAREKA FISHING CLUB 2006

LAKE OKAREKA 2013 SUMMER TROUT FISHING TOURNAMENT REPORT

Thanks to everyone who entered and supported our summer tournament.

The event was a lot quieter this year with only 54 entrants. Summer is a tricky time to choose a weekend with all the other events going on. The competition was again great fun, with the weather proving very cooperative.

We would like to thank **Rotorua Hunting and Fishing** for their continued support with the subsidies offered on the excellent prizes!

Congratulations to the following winners:

Amy Van Boven – Junior Female Biggest Fish

Mathew Gattenby – Junior Male Biggest Fish

Aroha Thompson – Adult Female Biggest Fish

Grant Phibbs – Adult Male Biggest Fish

Due to the low numbers we are considering going back to one annual competition, which could be around April when the jigging really comes on. We would welcome any feedback on this idea, email Jason@millarch.co.nz. For further information phone Steve 3628790, Dean 3628960, Jason 3628682.



A big thanks to "Weigh In Masters" Sacha Cox and John Herbert



2013 NEW YEAR'S DAY YACHT RACE

As luck would have it New Year's Day was a cracker for this year's annual Dr Ron Caughey Memorial Yacht Race with a combination of fine weather and good wind at the Boyes Beach start line venue.

A line-up of fifteen yachts of various classes gathered for the Mark Foy Start (delayed start handicap) off the beach at 2:00pm. The good breeze at the beginning gave the early starters good distance giving them an early lead on the usually faster later starting lighter boats.

The wind was relatively constant throughout the race and Stuart Waite on his Hobie 14 headed off the leading trailer yachts and remaining eleven competitors by two minutes to win this year's race trophy.

Thanks to all of our our supporters helpers and sponsors who made it another great Lake Okareka event and thanks to Sean from Telfer Marine for providing the main prize once again.





Dr Ron Caughey Memorial Yacht Race 2013 Results

Name	Class	Start	Finish	Place
Stuart Waite	Hobie 14	2:35	3:35	1st
Rod Stace	Quicksilver 16	2:05	3:37	2nd
Jenny Grace				
Bob van Boven	Monarch 17	2:05	3:44	3rd
Dave Scott				
Nick Wrinch	Laser	2:35	3:46	4th
Simon Bell	Kestral	2:05	3:49	5th
Chris Roper				
Joel English				
Micheal Smith	Hobie 16	3:05	3:52	6th
Bryan Walford	Windsurfer	2:15	3:53	7th
Graeme Prestige	Laser	2:35	3:54	8th
Tim Winstone	Laser	2:35	3:57	9th
John Battersby	Laser	2:35	4:06	10th
Emma Lowe	Laser	2:35	4:08	11th
Kate Beale				
Richard Caughey	Hobie 16	3:05	4:14	12th
Sylvian Millio				
Tiwini Hemi	Windrush	2:35	DNF	
Sam Lowe	Laser	2:35	DNF	
Josh Beale				
Tim Wiseman	Laser	2:35	DNF	

Lake Okareka Preschool - February 2013

Welcome to our new children and their families who have joined us this term. Louis Holland, Jesse Thornton Russ, Beatrix Dakin-Hoy, Alexander Buchanan, Greer Bennett, Guy and Hugo Smith and Lauren Carter.

Farewell to those children who have graduated to school this term—Joey Dunlop, Eirwen Robinson and Hannah Buchanan.

Our programme has included learning experiences such as carpentry. This has become very popular thanks to our new selection of timber from Bryan Walford. The children have planned and designed their own carpentry projects such as bird houses, planes and much more.

We have also had artists donate their talents to the children with Nic Bennett and the newly created water trough Tangaroa – Atua the God of the Sea. The children love their new water trough. Heather Horton has come in also and added a touch of summer to our old shed with her delightful sunflowers. Thanks to both artists.

Recycling cardboard and paper

We really appreciate the support from the community to recycle as this not only reduces the carbon footprint, it also helps funds for Preschool.

Reminders

For Hall bookings you need to call Carol Christian Price.

Special thanks to:

- All the supporters of the Fishing Competition.
- Mistress of Cakes
- Families for the delicious baking
- Siew Bek Goh Robinson for teaching Mandarin Chinese
- Heather Norton, our sunflower artist
- Bryan Walford for our generous supply of wood
- Guy Gaddum for our new concrete area

We are presently having 'wheels' week and the children are enjoying bringing along their bikes trikes and much more.

For enquires please call Debbie on 362 8606 or after hours on 345 9136 or email debbie.hayward@lakeokarekapreschool.co.nz. Our website is www.lakeokarekapreschool.co.nz



LAKE OKAREKA TENNIS CLUB

New Members Welcome!!

The subs for the current season remain a very reasonable \$100 for the whole family until October. Come and play and get your children starting tennis at this great little Club.

Coaching for children - Autumn

Coaching has three more sessions to run. There have been over 35 children aged between 4 and 15 being coached by the two professional coaches. The Autumn and Spring coaching sessions run for eight weeks. Contact the numbers below to register your interest for next Spring. The cost is determined by the number attending but is \$30 or \$50 for the eight sessions depending on the age group attended.

Netball

The Club is purchasing netball hoops for casual children and adult play. Watch this space for details or send in your contact details if you are interested in participating in casual netball.

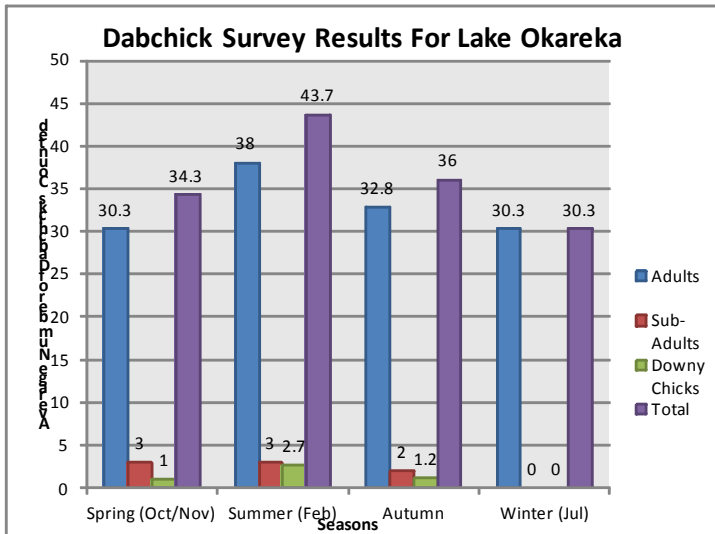
Contacts for the Tennis club: John 362 8282; Hongli 362 8106;
Gert 362 8835 or johnbattersby@xtra.co.nz



Dabchick Count Survey 2011-2012

Local residents and other interested people, working with the Department of Conservation, carried out quarterly dabchick surveys on Okareka (and 4 other lakes). Three surveys were required on separate days in the middle two weeks of each of the months October, January, April and July. Fine, calm weather during daylight hours, good visibility and waves less than half a metre, were the requirements needed for surveys to proceed. A number of small boats, canoes etc, each with 2 or 3 people were used.

No surveys were able to be conducted in April (autumn survey), so the total number of dabchick adults, sub-adults and chicks counted in the Winter, Spring and Summer Surveys were averaged to give an estimated Autumn count.



VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR THIS YEAR

2 survey periods: 6 – 14 April and “late October”

3 sets of surveys in this time-frame with all boats out at the same time

Last year’s volunteers will be contacted but more people
will make it easier.

Contact: Mike Bannister on 3628 043 or email: 89.mike@gmail.com



Report about the Millar Road, Lake Okareka DOC Camp

As I am sure many of the readers of the Newsletter will be aware, Lake Okareka Community Assn has negotiated and gained a six year contract with Department of Conservation to manage the Millar Road camp and day picnic beach. This involves quite a lot of work for those volunteers involved – checking in and talking to campers, checking and cleaning toilets, picking up litter and generally just keeping a neighbourly eye on the place.

With this real summer weather we have had, especially over Christmas and into January, the camp and beach were extremely busy. It continues to remain busy both during the week with campers staying and local people coming to “cool off” after work and school, or to enjoy a picnic tea – and at weekends, with a generally greater number of campers staying Friday and Saturday nights, and many locals and visitors enjoying recreational water sports and the beach area.

A huge vote of thanks goes to those people who are helping to look after the camp over the summer. At times the job has been quite difficult, but the rewards are coming back both financially - LOCA is receiving a significant amount back from DOC of the camping fees that are paid, which will be put back into conservation activities around the lake (such as the extension to the Lake Okareka walking track) – and from the pleasing comments received from visitors to the camp, who hail from all around New Zealand and the world. Comments are constantly made about the wonderful clean toilets and tidy camp ground in a gorgeous and quite unique lakeside setting.

As part of the contract with DOC, LOCA is required to keep statistics about the visitor numbers and where they are from. Those involved doing this work thought we would like to share with you the range of countries who have had citizens staying at Lake Okareka. New Zealand visitors both local and from all over make up the largest group, followed by visitors from Germany, Netherlands, France, Australia, United Kingdom, USA, Belgium, Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden, Brazil, Israel, Canada, Japan, Singapore, Norway, Indonesia, Spain, Austria, Finland, Czech Republic, China, Polynesia, Slovenia, Tahiti, Luxembourg, Argentina, New Caledonia, Italy, Hong Kong, French West Indies, Poland and Slovakia!

Those people who are helping with the camp are really enjoying the opportunity to meet such a range of people and share this place and their local knowledge with these visitors. Visitors really appreciate the chance to speak with local people. LOCA would welcome others from the Lake Okareka community who would like to come and help. Now is a good time to become involved as the numbers staying daily at the camp are dropping from the Christmas and January peak times, and it is easier to get to know the ropes when there is not so much pressure. Volunteers who help out receive recognition by way of petrol/grocery vouchers.

Please contact Sandra Goodwin 362 8865 or Geoff Palmer 362 8379 if you are at all interested to help out with this very worthwhile community project. Your help will provide funding for other worthwhile conservation based projects at Lake Okareka.

Draft Minutes of Lake Okareka Community Assn Inc Annual General Meeting
held in the Lake Okareka Community Hall,
Wednesday 23 January 2013 from 7.30 pm

The Annual General Meeting of LOCA was declared open at 7.30 pm by Chairman **Geoff Palmer** and he welcomed everyone present. Those present included His Worship the Mayor **Kevin Winters** (who apologised for being late), RDC Cr. **Dave Donaldson**; BOPRC Cr. **Neil Oppatt**; **Brentleigh Bond**, Chairman of Rotorua Lakes Community Board; **Andy Bruere**, Rotorua Lakes Operations Manager and **Anna Grayling**, Rotorua Lakes Business Manager, both from Bay of Plenty Regional Council; **Pererika Makiha**, Rotorua Lakes Harbourmaster and **Ross Powell**, Maritime Officer; **John and Ann Green**, LakesWater Quality Society Chairman and Secretary and 37 LOCA members.

Apologies were received from Ian Potter, Megan Douglas, Mike Vincent, Lyall & Judith Beuth, Dame Dorothy Winstone, Cr. Lyall Thurston, Cr. Karen Hunt, Dot Pickernell, Katy Hodgson, Heather Pearson, John & Hera Rhyneck, Annette Stock, Christine Caghey, Todd McClay MP, Cr. Glenys Searanke, Lucy Playne, Grant Cunningham, Neil Callaghan, Diane Walford. Moved that these apologies be accepted Geoff Palmer/George Stucki-carried.

Pererika Makiha, the Rotorua Lakes Harbourmaster reported to the meeting about the summer season so far in relation to lake usage. Report attached:

Main points: He said his team were assisted by 37 volunteer lake wardens across the Rotorua Lakes with everyone helping to try to keep all lake users safe. He acknowledged the assistance of Lake Okareka volunteer wardens – Peter Weir, Mike Goodwin, Jason Douglas, Steve Lyons, Gary O'Donnell, Sandra Goodwin and Jacky Cirne. Behaviour over summer has not been too bad – but it has not been great either! With the better weather, there have been more boats and jet skis out on the lakes, and many of them out-of-towners. Our job is to educate the users of the surface of the water. BOPRC have been running a jet ski education campaign and the outcomes of this are still being evaluated.

He pointed out that BOPRC is the only region in upper North Island that does not require jet skis to be registered. He will be pushing for this in the next review of the BOPRC Navigation and Safety Bylaws in 2014 and would like submissions from the lakes communities to support this change.

Pererika is responsible for all water safety in the lakes area. He was responsible for the large 5 knot buoy that was placed outside the weed cordon last year. Many people at Lake Okareka did not like it, they said it spoilt the aesthetics. However since the buoy has shifted out further there have been even more infringements of the 5 knot speed limit in the Acacia arm and he has decided to put the buoy back in place to try to help remind people of the speed limit within the Acacia arm.

George Stucki asked about the **dead trees/branches** that have fallen into the lake within the Acacia Arm – Pererika said to contact DOC, BOPRC or District Council about removing these.

Geoff Palmer asked about the **regulations covering the use of barges**. There are now 3 of these on Lake Okareka. Pererika replied that he had inspected all three – they are required to have life jackets (suitable sizes for all passengers), navigation lights, safety rails, fire extinguishers. If they make excessive noise that is a matter for RDC to handle. Any commercial use requires a commercial licence.

A question was asked about paddle boards: the paddler requires either a suitable life jacket or a leg leash attached to board and leg.

John Green asked about what the **jet ski policy** was, as it seemed to him that jet skis and their drivers can go as fast as they like where ever they like, including 5 knot areas. Pererika said jet skis are boats or vessels and have to obey the same rules on the water as all other boats. He said the best way to manage jet skis would be to have them registered and identifiable. Then members of the public can take note of accurate details and pass these onto Lakes Maritime team to deal with.

Dave Muller: asked **“Why not register all boats?”** Pererika replied that jet skis seem to be the worst offenders, but that boat registration with boats having registered names is probably not too far away – other regions require this.

Chairman **Geoff Palmer** thanked **Pererika Makiha** for his report and thanked him and his team for the work they are doing to try and keep everyone safe on the water.

Anna Grayling, Rotorua Lakes Business Manager then presented a **report about local lakes - Okareka, Tikitapu, Tarawera, Rotokakahi, Okataina**. She distributed a handout with her talk on file.

Lake Okareka water quality so far shows no significant improvement since the sewerage was reticulated. Sometimes improvements can take some time and other factors are at work such as rain fall. There will possibly be a review of Lake Okareka Action Plan in the next 12 – 18 months. There is still \$500,000 waiting to be allocated to further projects within the Lake Okareka catchment, that might help with improving water quality here. Groundwater research show that g/w coming into Lake Okareka is pristine. Unfortunately **hornwort** has been found in Lake Okareka between Boyes Beach and DOC camp – the hornwort will be further investigated by diving this summer and treated.

Lake Tikitapu (Blue Lake) water quality is still good with low N and P levels. The action plan is completed, sewerage reticulation installed for public toilets and Top 10 Holiday park, but there is still some work on stormwater run off to be done there.

Lake Okataina is stable and still above the target TLI but there are some worrying trends with high nutrient levels – P & N. There is significant understory browse by deer and wallabies. A PHD student will be employed to investigate effects of this browse – Does the lack of understory plants lead to higher N & P run off to the lake?

Craner Hayward asked **what the BOPRC policy was about gorse?** He believes there are large areas of gorse on the reserve land around Lake Okataina. Ms Grayling responded by saying that DOC are engaged with the lakes programme.

Lake Tarawera water quality trend is declining. An Action Plan is being developed.

Lake Rotokakahi water quality is declining quite rapidly and BOPRC are very concerned. An Action Plan is under development but the Lake Trust Board have been slow to engage. The ground water research did show one bore with elevated N levels, but not coming from Rotorua's waste water treatment system.

Groundwater ages around Lake Okareka, Tikitapu and Rotokakahi are moderate to high – 50 -150 years old.

Next phase is to take the information about ground waters found in the area and develop a geological model to try to predict what needs to be done next.

Geoff Palmer commented on the Lake Okataina situation with animal pest browse and urged the regional council and DOC to undertake a 1080 drop. He said it is some 14 years since the last 1080 drop and the animals (deer and wallaby) are having a profound impact on the bush around Lake Okataina.

Craner Hayward questioned the time since the last 1080 drop, as he believes that there has been a more recent drop. [Secretary checked with DOC and Geoff Palmer's report was correct. The last 1080 drop in the Lake Okataina area was in the late 1980's.]

Ann Green commented that DOC have extremely limited resources, and the onus has gone onto farm owners with adjacent properties to try to deal with both weed and animal pests.

Dave Muller asked **what success the BOPRC have had** with water quality improvements. Ms Grayling reported that there have been many – **Lake Rotorua has the best water quality it has seen in 20 years**. Possibly helped by a cooler summer last year – there has been positive responses to alum dosing of streams feeding into Lake Rotorua. There is one of the largest floating wetlands in the world in Lake Rotorua. **At Lake Rotoehu water quality is improving** with large harvests of hornwort from the lake, on going alum dosing of a tributary stream and recently the use of aeration devices to keep water oxygenated. **Lake Rotoiti has the best water quality it has had for some time**. There is still more sewerage reticulation to be done in catchments there. Water clarity has increased markedly. There was a proposal to divert the Hamurana water coming into Lake Rotorua, but the scientific studies have shown that this would have some detrimental effects so this project has been abandoned.

Cr Neil Oppatt added that BOPRC want to be sure they spend money effectively, so the science and research was really important to support these projects.

John Green from LakesWater Quality Society added that 10 years ago no one really knew what was causing the problems with the lakes water quality. Time has proven that we needed science and research results. The regional council now has a chair at the Waikato University dedicated to produc-

ing science results and graduates and PHD students working on various aspects of solving water quality issues in the Rotorua lakes and their catchments. He said his experience has seen visibility in Lake Rotoiti go from 3ft to 24 ft. The Rotorua area has been very fortunate to receive a huge amount of support from central govt (\$72m) and from regional government (\$128m) - \$200m in total.

Andy Bruere from BOPRC spoke about the **Lake Okareka outlet structure**. His job is to push the project of improving the outlet system along. Money has been set aside in the BOPRC 10 Year Plan for improvements to the outlet and its management. Problem is with the capacity of the present pipeline. There has been air inflow to the pipe which reduces capacity, when lake levels are high. The camera inspection of the pipe has not been carried out yet, but the engineers believe that the air leak has resolved itself (?). Improvements are required as the present system is manually operated, and it is a bit trial & error to operate. BOPRC are talking about installing a weir at the top of the canal which would control the lake level. In order to make further inspections and repairs the flow down the canal will need to be shut off. Richard Hunt who lives at Lake Okareka, is involved with the process. There are 4 options – do nothing; leave everything as it is; install a labyrinth weir to give better control; ?? . Whatever happens BOPRC need to have good communication with the community about what they plan to do. Find out what the community's expectations are. Currently the lake level is reported as being just above the mid point of the 400mm operating range. The valve is to be turned down to ¼ opening to slow rate of water going out.

Geoff Palmer said he was disappointed that no further investigations have been made. LOCA has already surveyed the community and that information was passed on to Richard Hunt last year. He knows that there is funding available (in next year's annual plan). Some type of weir seems to him to be the most obvious solution. Presently we have a very old system and valve which as he understands is in a fragile state and could fail at any time. If it does fail, then there will be a major problem.

Cr Neil Oppatt said he did not think a cent should be spent on the outlet system. He does not see any problems, although he supposed there was for those living in Benn Road and Acacia Road when lake levels are high. He said there should just be proactive management of the existing outlet system in dry summers to keep water in the lake.

Andy Bruere said he would continue to keep the community informed of developments. Chairman Geoff Palmer thanked Andy Bruere and Anna Grayling for their presentations.

Minutes of 2012 AGM were published during the year in the Newsletter.

It was moved that the Minutes of the 2012 AGM of LOCA be moved as a true and correct record - moved Carol Christian-Price/Mike Bannister – carried.

Matters Arising from Minutes:

Jet Skis – LOCA had canvassed the local community towards the end of last summer and the majority of responses from the community were **not** to ask for a complete ban of jet skis on Lake Okareka. Instead the more common response from both sides was **to request the registration of jet skis, with many asking that all other vessels** be required to have registration – a name or a number. There was also clear support for the licencing of all powered vessel owners and users.

LOCA Chairman's Report for 2012 – attached.

Main points covered:

- the LOCA contract with DOC for 6 years to manage the **DOC camp**, with 90% of fees taken coming back to the community. LOCA's goal is to use the money to help with the construction of the extension of the Lake Okareka walking track
- **Mural on the sewerage pump station fence**, with the financial help of “Keep Rotorua Beautiful” - and the efforts of Landcare Okareka volunteers, the entrance to the village from the quarry has been improved immensely
- Congratulations to the Lake Okareka Rural Fire Force team, especially Phil Muldoon and Kierin Oppatt, for all their efforts to secure funding for a **new fire appliance**
- **Acacia Road lake front area** – signage, community noticeboard, tidy up the area, good support for this from community when asked for feedback after 2012 AGM
- **Very slow broadband speeds**, working with Todd McClay MP and Chorus to try to get im-

provements

- **Acacia Road along lakeside opposite oak trees** – reduced mowing regime of RDC & Transit NZ (saving money) difficult area for walkers and cyclists, a lot of vehicle traffic – LOCA to discuss further and come up with a solution
- **Traffic speed in village**, rumble strips have not worked, chicanes have been suggested but even more noisy than rumble strips, may need to have more police visits and issuing of tickets, PLEASE SLOW DOWN

Geoff Palmer moved for the adoption of his report – this was moved by Fenella Playne / Marcel van Leeuwen – carried.

Discussion of Chairman's Report:

Cranner Hayward asked about the **spraying of the weeds at Acacia Road jetty area**. There was some confusion at the meeting about spraying weeds on land and weeds in water. Geoff Palmer reported that the LINZ contractor undertook spraying of aquatic weeds in area of weed cordon using paraquat back in December 2012. This was advertised and had signage, albeit not very big and only located at the jetty. It was said that a local resident had sprayed the land based reeds and grassy plants with Roundup to help with visibility of children and dogs when in swimming. Mr Hayward reported that some dog owners were not happy as dogs had been affected by chemical. [Comment has been made since that it is not likely to have been from Roundup, more likely to have been Paraquat, as notice in paper and on sign asked for people to stay out of the water for 24 hours after spraying – the chemical can affect skin]. Geoff Palmer reported that this area is under a plan to improve with hard edging, as it is a popular place with families and dog owners and presently looks very scruffy. LOCA sought community input after last year's AGM and the feedback received shows that the majority want some improvements made to this area. LOCA will be working with RDC, BOPRC and Te Arawa to help get this achieved.

Blair Gilbert said this area should be a boat only area and children and families should not be encouraged to use the area. It was pointed out to Blair that this area is already well used by local Oka-reka families and visitors from town for human swimming and dog swimming, as it is adjacent to a dog exercise area.

Events at Tikitapu (Blue Lake) were discussed – particularly the Rowing event held by Rotorua and Whakatane rowing clubs, held in summer school holidays – when BOPRC lakes closure policy says NO lake closures during holidays. The Rowing Club were able to shut off public parking on the Blue lake RDC reserve and charge for parking. They also closed off virtually all of the lake for swimming, and access to the DOC Nature Walk was coned off for the whole weekend.

Mayor Kevin Winters commented, after apologising for being late to the meeting. He was on the Coastguard boat patrolling at Tikitapu and said everyone enjoyed the weekend – 800 rowers and 2000 spectators. He believes that the lakes are a public resource and should be made available for such an event. He also said the rowing club had paid RDC to use the reserve.

Geoff Palmer responded by asking why wasn't the DOC area made available for public parking? There are a set of BOPRC rules about lake closures and these are being ignored in this instance. Locals and visitors alike are being pushed out of the area for this event. It was not clear that the public could still walk around Lake Tikitapu. He also felt that the area set aside for swimming in front of the camp was totally inadequate. Other lake users such as Canoe NZ can still hold racing events and keep the swimming areas open.

DOC Camp: the contract and situation with this was explained further. It is a great facility receiving wonderful attendance from visitors - locals and all over NZ and the world! Local volunteers are keeping it clean and tidy with twice daily visits checking both the camp and the campers. Local volunteers will be given some recompense for their time and expenses from the 90% of the takings that DOC are paying back to LOCA.

Blair Gilbert reported that the **new fire appliance** will arrive probably towards the end of February, early March. There will be a **Fire Fighters Ball on Saturday 9th March** at the Hall. Fire Chief Phil Muldoon is currently fighting fires on Great Barrier Island.

Financial Report 12 months ending 30th September 2012:

Presented by **Bryan Walford** who explained the difference from last year to this year in subscriptions and donations as these are now split 25% subs/75% donation. He also spoke about the income

from DOC campsite, donation to Salvation Army for Christmas Carols, and Newsletter expenses. In an answer to a question about emailing Newsletters, it was said this could be done if members requested that, but most members seemed to prefer a hard copy of the Newsletter. Plus costs of the newsletters are largely offset by advertising income.

It was moved that the Financial Report for 12 months ending 30th September 2012 be accepted: moved Marcel van Leeuwen / Carol Christian-Price – carried.

Election of Committee and Officers for 2013:

Geoff Palmer explained that at last year's AGM we had 2 nominations – **Blair Gilbert** and **Katy Hodgson**. We have since realised that the Committee was then over quota (supposed to be 10 Committee members plus 3 office holders) but in the interests of having more younger people from the community involved we have accepted those nominations and they are on the committee **as co-opted members**. This year we have one nomination of **Harm Zuidmeer** (nominated by Megan Douglas and seconded by Sandra Goodwin) and all of the rest of the LOCA Committee wish to remain on Committee.

So it was moved that the new 2013 LOCA Committee and Officers are as follows:

Geoff Palmer (Chairman), **Bryan Walford** (Treasurer), **Sandra Goodwin** (Secretary). Committee members: **Mike Bannister**, **Chris Russell**, **Carol Christian-Price**, **Marcel van Leeuwen**, **Matt Harvey**, **Megan Douglas**, **Cheryl Lyons**, **Mike Vincent**, **Lyall Beuth**, **Ian Potter** and **co-opted LOCA Committee members Blair Gilbert, Katy Hodgson, Harm Zuidmeer**. Moved Neil Kennedy/Steve Lyons – carried.

Subscriptions: It moved that these remain as currently at \$5 for subscriptions with a request for a \$15 (or more) donation – moved Carol Christian-Price/Steve Lyons – carried.

Honorary and Life Members: Geoff Palmer spoke about this. He said that it was time LOCA and the community at Lake Okareka recognise some of its citizens and people who do play or have played an important part in the community over the past years. **Honorary Members of LOCA** do not pay subscriptions but have no voting rights. He proposed **Brian Law**, as an **Honorary Member of LOCA**. Brian lives at Owata but has spent and continues to spend, many hours working in the environs of Lake Okareka, doing such things as helping build and look after walking tracks, and undertaking endless weed control in the reserves around Okareka.

Life Members of LOCA do not pay subscriptions, but they do retain voting rights as members of LOCA. Those persons proposed as receiving Life Membership of LOCA – **Fenella Playne, Jack Smith, Dame Dorothy Winstone, Dot Pickernell and Judy Gentles**.

Geoff Palmer moved that all of these nominations for Honorary and Life membership of LOCA be upheld, seconded Sandra Goodwin – carried with acclamation. **Fenella Playne** thanked the meeting for this honour.

Landcare Okareka Report: presented by Sandra Goodwin (attached): main point about the new walking track from Summit Road to Loop Road through the new plantings on the Okareka Scenic Reserve.

Geoff Palmer then asked some of those present for comments.

Brentleigh Bond, Chairman of Rotorua Lakes Community Board spoke to the meeting about rates. RDC are planning to reduce the differential on the General Rate – currently Rural Residential differential is 0.85 and Urban Residential 1 and Business differential is 2.2. The differential came about at a time in the mid 1980's when there was a big increase in valuations on lake settlement properties. This continues to be the case, but the differential which was at 0.65 has gradually over time, crept up to 0.85.

John Green – Grow Rotorua – he outlined the set up of this Committee and its aims, hoping to encourage more investment in local business, taking a slightly different approach from predecessor organisations. Looking for opportunities to generate more work, investment opportunities, with a competitive advantage and provide new economic growth particularly focussed on using currently underutilised resources.

Ray Cook about the Rotorua Airport: looking for a new CEO have had 72 excellent applicants.

Negotiating for another airline to be using airport. Main priority is to maintain competitive edge.

Cr Dave Donaldson, Dep. Chair of RDC Infrastructure Committee – his immediate concern is the Tarawera Road intersection and the impact of the new Redwood Centre development. He is concerned for cyclists' safety. There is no vehicle access to Redwood Shopping Centre across Tarawera Road, only access when coming from town is to go around round about and back along Te Ngae Road. Similarly there is no exit from Redwood Shopping Centre across Tarawera Road to head back up to lakes. Must exit towards town along Te Ngae Road and then try to turn opposite Telfer Marine or at Sala Street lights. He would like a speed restriction on Tarawera Road from Health Camp back to roundabout. There are also problems for pedestrians crossing Tarawera Road.

Mayor Kevin Winters spoke about the **Rotorua Lakes Strategy Group** – co-governance between Te Awawa, RDC and BOPRC is a real NZ success story. Work being done on managing water quality in the Rotorua lakes is world beating for science and interventions. Lake Okareka has been the “practice pond” to try out solutions on a small scale and they are working. Lake Rotokakahi will be more complex as it is privately owned. Land management is going to be key to finding long term solutions for all of the lakes.

Geoff Palmer closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending.

AGM of Lake Okareka Community Assn Inc was declared closed at 10.15pm.

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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**

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.

EVENT INFORMATION **APRIL 2013 to JULY 2013**

Start Date	End Date	Event	Where
5/4/13	7/4/13	NZ Dragon Boat National Champs	Blue Lake
13/4/13	13/4/13	XTERRA Festival	Blue Lake
7/7/13	7/7/13	3D Rotorua	Blue Lake

Events & Venues Rotorua Community and Major Events Team manage 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 team at Events & Venues by calling the Events Manager on 07 351 8670 or by emailing ma-jor.events@rdc.govt.nz or go to website: <http://www.boprc.govt.nz/environment/water/rotorua-lakes/lake-closures.aspx>.



Lake Tarawera Playcentre

Lake Tarawera Playcentre is situated at 10 Alexander Road, and during term time we have sessions on Monday and Thursday 9.30 am – 12.00 pm. If you want to find out more about our parent-run early childhood education service – for children from birth to age six- please read on.

We welcomed a new member to Playcentre this term, “Fergus Herries”, congratulations to Katie and her family on the safe arrival of their son. Everyone is enjoying the cuddles and the giggles with your new baby.

The theme for this term is “Belonging”/ Mana Whenua – one of the strands of Te Whāriki curriculum that involves children and their families feeling a sense of belonging. Within the activities planned we are going to cook with the harvest from our veggie patch. We are also planning a “whānau/family day” so the children can bring family members to playcentre to share a meal. The children have already been busy making some beautiful art work to put up on the walls.

This term our children have painted pavers to take home to put in a safe spot to wave. Thank you to SafeKids for donating the pavers, the paints and brushes for us to do this.

Our very active children have also been enjoying this beautiful warm weather and spending lots of time outside, in the sandpit, exploring obstacle courses, and enjoying some water play.

Please feel very welcome to come and visit, we would love to have you and share in the learning of our children and our wonderful centre.

Feel free to contact us by email tarawera.playcentre@gmail.com or phone us at 3628 748 or at 3628 055 during session times.







Hugo Gaddum, Luca Batenburg, Otis Murphy, Tomas Zuidmeer

These are four local lads who were on a "Big Boys Weekend" at the Lake Okareka DOC camp. They paddled across the lake in their little kayaks, accompanied by some of their dads. They then stayed the night at the camp in their tents, under the supervision of one of the dad's, Guy Gaddum.



Bouncy castle at the Fishing Competition was enjoyed by all—both young and old!!