



THE NEWSLETTER

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

July, August & September 2016

www.lakeokareka.org

The Newsletter

of the

Lake Okareka Community Association (LOCA)

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Sandra Goodwin **Secretary** **3628 865**

Bryan Walford **Treasurer** **3628 224**

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Gavin Hudson **3628 317** **Gill Kenna** **3628 282**

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DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

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

Front Cover: Members of the Lake Okareka Volunteer Rural Fire Force

Back Row *left to right*: Phil Muldoon, Dave Herries, Phil Rennie, Hans Laven, Stu Pinfold, Stu Lyall, Rasmus Andersen, Alan Jones

Front Row *left to right*: Amber Muldoon, Thomas Firth, Kate Huxford, Irene Ferguson

New recruits are: Hans Laven, Thomas Firth, Kate Huxford and Irene Ferguson

Absent: Adam McHugh, Callum Gilmour, Blair Gilbert, Kieran Oppatt, Jesse Oppatt, Chelsea Muldoon, Julian Smith, Lewis Shaw, Dave Eddy, Bill Fisher

Please refer to page 7 for further information. Thanks to Mike Vincent for supplying the photo.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT—SEPTEMBER 2016

Greetings from the LOCA committee as we look forward to spring.

New walking track from Boyes Beach to the DOC Camp

Whilst not yet finished, the great response we are now receiving from the many locals and visitors who have and are walking/running the track has made it all worthwhile for the many volunteers working on the Lake Okareka walking track project. In some cases some volunteers have spent years making a contribution. The community management of the Millar Road DOC camp that has funded much of this project has been significant. It was pleasing to hear recently from senior DOC staff that the Lake Okareka DOC campground rates very highly as one of their most popular camp sites. The track is not yet open for wheelchair or mobility scooter use. We will advise the public when this is the case.

Bay of Plenty Regional Navigation Safety Bylaw

The Bay of Plenty Regional Council have announced the new Regional Navigation Safety Bylaw will not now be operative until October 2017 and not this year as originally planned. All rules relating to the use of lakes and coastal harbours and waters by people and water craft remain the same as in previous years.

New Rubbish Collection

This is scheduled to become operative on 31 October 2016, with the wheelie bins and plastic bags being distributed progressively during September and October. Details of recycling items and the operation of the Tarawera Transfer station will be advised shortly. If you have stock of the existing paper rubbish bags you can continue to use these as they have been paid for. The plan is for smart rubbish and recycling containers to be installed at the public reserves at Lakes Tarawera, Tikitapu and Okareka, but these may not be available until November 2016.

Lake Water Quality at Lake Okareka

The 2004 Action Plan for Lake Okareka catchment set a TLI target of 3.00 and this was to be met by the reticulated sewerage system in the catchment and land use change of 200ha from pasture and livestock to trees. The ratepayers at the time part funded the sewerage installation at a cost of more than \$12,000 per property. But the land use change target of 200 ha was not achieved.

The water in Lake Okareka has never met the TLI target of 3.0. The TLI has varied between 3.15 and 3.35 per annum, and currently the TLI is 3.20. This is not satisfactory and this fact is acknowledged by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council and by Professor David Hamilton, from the University of Waikato, who with the students undertakes a lot of scientific work on the Rotorua lakes for BOPRC. Professor Hamilton has stressed the importance of reducing the Nitrogen and Phosphorus entering into the lake.

As a result the land use change target has now been increased to a further 100 to 130 ha and the Bay of Plenty Council budget has been set at \$785,000 spread over 3 years to achieve this reduction. The 26 eligible larger land owners in the Lake Okareka catchment will be approached individually to reach agreements with the BOPRC on a voluntary basis.

Lakes A Zone

The Rotorua Lakes Council A Zone Plan is now more than 10 years old and under the Resource Management Act this plan is subject to a statutory review in 2017. Some rural landowners in Lake Okareka catchment area have expressed some interest in subdivision and development and are wanting certainty of what the new Lakes A Zone may look like for this catchment before making any land use change decisions. This review is likely to take at least two years and will create a lot of interest as further subdivision could also provide an added incentive to change land use.

Community Survey

The LOCA Committee is currently preparing a survey of a number of issues that have already and will in the future, impact on residents and ratepayers at Lake Okareka. It is important we receive comments back from as many as possible. Continuing pressure on the lakes from events, tourism, etc over the summer holidays is one obvious issue. We will have details on how we plan to manage the survey shortly.

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

Geoff Palmer
Chairman

Definition of TLI - Trophic Level Index

The TLI or Trophic Level Index is an indicator of the environmental quality of the water of a lake. It is composed of two biological and two chemical components. Each of the 12 Rotorua lakes receive an annual Trophic Level Index (TLI) reading, which measures total nitrogen, total phosphorus, clarity and *Chlorophyll a*. The lower the TLI figure, the better the water quality of that particular lake. The TLI is calculated annually for each Rotorua district lake. Bay of Plenty Regional Council use data collected from the testing results from monthly water samples taken from each of the 12 Rotorua lakes.



Lake Okareka Local Janine Horton standing for Lakes District Health Board



Having grown up at Lake Okareka it is important for me to introduce myself in the hope you will support my bid for a position on the Lakes District Health Board. I loved growing up here in Lake Okareka, Rotorua and I hold a deep appreciation for the cultural and environmental diversity our region represents.

My local schooling culminated with my appointment as Head Girl at Rotorua Lakes High, after which I gained a Bachelor of Health Sciences as a Radiographer in Auckland. Following my

OE, I joined the NZ Police and worked in South Auckland for 4 years before my husband and I returned to Rotorua 10 years ago. I worked as a Police officer here in Rotorua for a short time before deciding to return to healthcare. I initially worked as a Radiographer covering a Rotorua / Taupo position.

I have since gained a Post Graduate Diploma in MRI and currently work part-time for the Lakes District Health Board (LDHB) as a general and MRI Radiographer at Rotorua Hospital.

My current clinical experience as a Radiographer with the LDHB and my previous experience in healthcare settings in both Auckland and London has broadened my knowledge of the health challenges we face locally. I believe this experience together with my enthusiasm and passion for healthcare will allow me to effectively contribute to the boards decisions.

The DHB's role is critical to improving, promoting and protecting the health of our community. As a Board member I will work hard to facilitate and strengthen the effectiveness of health services within our community.

Lake Okareka and Tarawera Specialist – Jenny Donne



Jenny Donne

Lakes and Residential Consultant

B: 07 349 5356

M: 027 385 0566

E: jenny.donne@bayleys.co.nz

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Haley McLeod

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The Lake Okareka Volunteer Rural Fire Force

Hi all

It's good to see spring has sprung, and the days are getting longer and warmer again. With spring comes daylight savings, and hence a friendly reminder of the need to check that the smoke detectors in your home are all in working order.

We have been fortunate to secure the purchase of an ex-Fonterra milk tanker. This Volvo truck is to replace our existing aged water tanker. We are in the process of obtaining quotes and fundraising for the work needed to bring this truck up to Rural Fire water tanker standards. This process is quite involved and I would like to thank all my members for their involvement in this project. If anyone in the community has any contacts or knows of anyone who specialises in fitting out this type of truck, or who can contribute to this project in some way, we would greatly appreciate your input. We hope to have the replacement tanker fully operational early in the New Year.

During the winter, I have attended a number of consultation workshops, as the volunteer representative for the Pumicelands Rural Fire Authority, in relation to the establishment of Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) which will bring the New Zealand Fire Service and the National Rural Fire Authority under one integrated organisation. I also had the opportunity to attend a conference for volunteers on leadership within the New Zealand Fire Service. This has provided a good insight into the possible future of rural fire under FENZ.

We have had four keen new members join recently. It has been beneficial to buddy these recruits up with more experienced fire fighters during training sessions as this provides an opportunity for developing leadership and mentoring within the rural fire force, as well as ensuring new members are made to feel welcome.

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.

Phil Muldoon
Chief Fire Officer



LANDCARE OKAREKA REPORT—SEPTEMBER 2016

Since the previous report back in July 2016, Landcare Okareka volunteers have completed several plantings. The weather has not always co-operated but nevertheless plants have gone into the ground. Two plantings have been done adjacent to the Boyes beach end of the new walking track.



Landcare Okareka volunteers assisted by volunteers from Lake Tarawera and Rotorua Forest & Bird members carried out a planting of approximately 1,400 native plants around the Tarawera Road transfer and recycling station. This working bee was held on the morning of Saturday 27th August 2016. This was a very successful Working Bee attended by a large number of people.



It is very disappointing to report that there has been some mindless vandalism done to the shade shelter along the Lake Okareka Walkway. The shade shelter has been there since June 2005, and no vandalism of note has been reported since it was built over 10 years ago - until now! Damage has been done to the roof of the shelter, using track marker posts which were wrenched out of the ground. These were taken to the shade shelter and have been driven up through the onduline roof in several places, creating large unsightly holes in the roof. If anyone knows anything about this vandalism, please report it to Rotorua Lakes Council 348 4199 or to Rotorua Police Station 348 0099.

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, on 362 8865 or email sgoodwin@actrix.co.nz

RAT BAIT AND BAIT STATIONS—SPRING 2016

The days are warming up again, spring is finally here. The birds are beginning to build nests and now is the time to get into rat baiting again to support the great work that Forest & Bird volunteers are doing in Tikitapu Scenic Reserve. Thank you to everyone who has purchased rat bait stations over the past 12 months. And thank you to those local property owners who have been collecting rat bait recently and looking after their rat bait stations on their own properties.

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

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

How to Use Ditrac Bait:

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

Bait stations are available by contacting Mike and Sandra Goodwin 362 8865 or email sgoodwin@actrix.co.nz. We now have a type of lockable bait station, like a small suitcase. They also have locating pins for the bait. Cost of these is \$25.

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

How do I get bait now? Bait is available in labelled, zip lock bags, containing 12 rat baits. This is enough bait to fill one bait station 2 times during a month. Bait stations should usually not be filled more than twice during a month, otherwise you are wasting bait and feeding potentially dead rats and mice. **If you require the bait or a lockable bait station** for \$25, please contact Mike & Sandra Goodwin phone 362 8865, 2 Pryce Road or Rod Stace phone 362 8523, 30 Summit Road. **Please phone first to arrange a suitable time to collect bait or a bait station.**

TIKITAPU SCENIC RESERVE PEST CONTROL PROJECT



Forest & Bird

GIVING NATURE A VOICE

The programme for the 2016 Tikitapu Pest Control has proceeded as planned, with the Pindone and Feratox ® (cyanide) baits put out into the bait stations on the 5th and 6th August. Stations were topped up two weeks later and it is intended to clear the stations of any remaining bait on September 18th and 19th.

At this stage we have found 58 possum and 2 wallaby carcasses and expect to find more when the stations are cleared. Post bait monitoring will then be carried out to see how successful the baiting has been in reducing rat and possum numbers.

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

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

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

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

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

What do I do if I suspect poisoning?

Always contact your:

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



Warning Poison

Pindone

will be present in bait stations from:

- DO NOT touch bait
- WATCH CHILDREN at all times
- DO NOT EAT animals from this area
- Poison baits or carcasses are **DEADLY to DOGS**



Department of Conservation
by Pigeon Island

For more information contact:

Unauthorized removal of signs or baits is an offence

The Department of Conservation has recently carried out a mistletoe count in the Okareka end of the reserve and are delighted with the increased number of plants found, and the way they are spreading towards the Tikitapu end. It is due to the presence of the two endangered species of mistletoe found in the reserve that DOC, the Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Forest and Bird (Rotorua Branch) combined resources to commence the Pest Control Project in 2003. The Rotorua Botanical Society control pest weeds and also plant new mistletoe host plants. Okareka residents have benefitted from this with not only the increased presence of mistletoe, but also healthier bush, more birds and less rats and possums, both in the reserve and the village.

Bird counts will be repeated in November.

A small number of plants left over from the planting working bee around the Tarawera Road refuse transfer station will be used to infill a few gaps in the reserve. Otherwise there has been no planting programme required.

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who has helped at the working bees. I am always delighted to have new people to add to the volunteer list. Please contact me if you would like more information or to be added to the list.

Frances Blakely jandfblakely@gmail.com Phone 362 8480



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Mistletoe Census of Tikitapu Scenic Reserve Completed

Paul Cashmore, DOC Rotorua

Over this winter several Department of Conservation staff along with local Okareka volunteers Mike Goodwin, Rod Stace and John Hobbs from Rotorua Botanical Society have been completing the first ever full census of the nationally threatened mistletoe population in Tikitapu Scenic Reserve (Okareka end) to determine the size of the population there. The Tikitapu Scenic Reserve Pest Control Project which has been running since 2002 was established with one of the main objectives to increase the distribution and numbers of two mistletoe species (*Ileostylus micranthus* & *Tupeia antarctica*) within the management area. DOC undertook a full resurvey of all mistletoe populations around the Rotorua lakes last summer and this information is currently still being analysed. This census was undertaken as part of that wider survey.

The census undertaken over 2 days in August 2016 revealed a total of 2034 live mistletoe plants present at the Okareka end of the reserve with 2017 of these being *Tupeia antarctica* with the remainder *Ileostylus micranthus*. An initial DOC survey in 2001 before pest control began showed an estimated mistletoe population of 218 plants – all *Tupeia*. The results from this survey show how the population has grown in the last 15 years as a direct result of ongoing intensive pest control. Kevin Buttell from DOC who undertook the wider Rotorua lakes mistletoe survey stated “With the results from Tikitapu Scenic Reserve we now have a good updated picture of the current distribution and size of the mistletoe population within the reserve for the first time. These results show that the mistletoe population within the reserve is by far the largest population in the Rotorua lakes district and also the wider Bay of Plenty Region and a key site for the ongoing survival of this nationally threatened species in the region.”

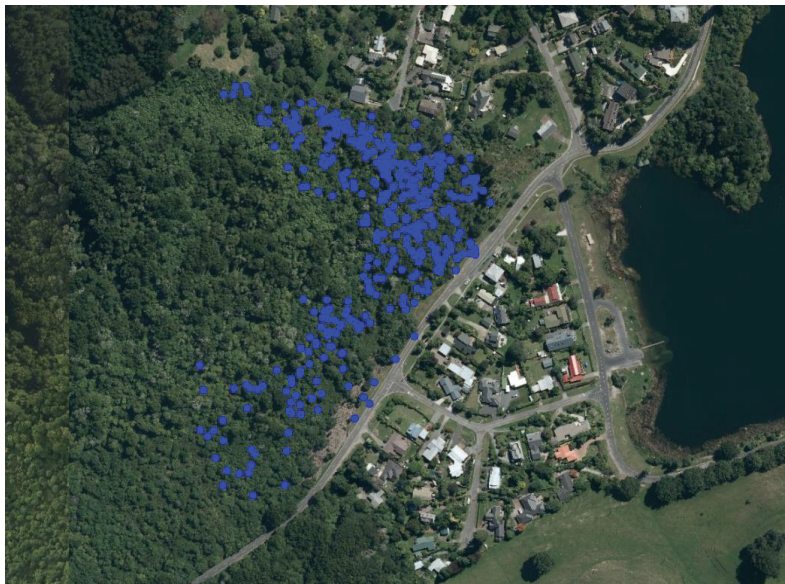


Figure 1: Map showing the distribution and density of mistletoe plants within Tikitapu Scenic Reserve.

UNUSUAL VISITOR TO BOYES BEACH

A couple of time during August we had a Caspian Tern (Taranui) sitting on the water's edge at Boyes beach with some Mallard Ducks. During the same period one was seen down near the walkway. Even though it is not common at Okareka it is found on every continent except South America and Antarctica. Both times I saw it was during strong easterlies so it may have been too rough at its normal roost. These birds are considered a native bird as they self-introduced here and breed in New Zealand. Unfortunately they are a threatened species.

Mike Vincent



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LAKE OKAREKA TENNIS CLUB

Daylight saving starts 25th September so it is almost time for spring tennis!

Subscriptions 2016/2017 year:

The subscription is a family sub for the year from 1 October to 30 September 2017 and remains at \$100. Payment is due by 1 October. New members are welcome.

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

A combination lock will be used and paid up members will be advised of the combination at the Friday coaching sessions. If you are not attending please contact Craig Kilmister so that the combination can be confirmed. The combination lock to the court will be used from 30th October.

Spring coaching for children:

Coaching for children starts Friday afternoon 14 October (the end of the first week of term 4) and runs for nine weeks (excluding Labour Weekend). The sessions are:

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

By Friday 7th October could you please register your interest by advising the names and ages of children and indicate which session they are likely to attend. The coach may move a child into another session depending on ability.

The cost is \$40 per child for session 1. For sessions 2 and 3 the cost is \$50 per child. If numbers need to be limited it will be on a first come first served basis.

Please pay the sub for coaching separately from the sub and put name of child as reference.

AGM:

This is scheduled for 28th October at 5.30pm. Nominations for the Committee are invited.

Weekly Tennis:

Casual adult tennis starts on Wednesday 12th October from 6.00 pm. New players welcome.

Contacts:

Craig Kilmister 3628 716 or craig@spurdle.nz or John Battersby 3628 282.



LAKE OKAREKA PRESCHOOL—SEPTEMBER 2016

Welcome to our new Board - in June we held our Pre-school AGM and appointed our new Board.

Chairpersons	Abi Bamforth and Sarah Bray
Deputy Chair	Cara Hunt
Treasurer	Vanessa Bowyer
Secretary	Sheryl Henman
General Board	Andrew Aitken and Debbie Hayward

Olympics

The children have experienced the joy of the Olympics and we have watched the highlights of the day in the variety of sporting activities. There has been excitement creating our own medals, bronze, silver and gold. The children experienced art activities such as painting our own kiwis in those special colours, exploring and designing our own flags. There was a lot of fun in participating in physical races such as biking and ball skills where all children took part.



Conservation Week is 12 – 16 September

On Thursday 1st September to celebrate the first day of spring the children went for a walk to the Board Walk at Boyes Beach. This was to explore the newly created walkway with a guided tour from Mike and Sandra Goodwin who shared knowledge of local Dabchicks nesting and the koaro fish. The children enjoyed their visit learning about the environment here in our community. Thanks Mike and Sandra.



Healthy Heart Award

The Preschool have been learning and implementing our daily practices towards the Healthy Heart Award for learning around keeping ourselves healthy and how we can do that with healthy food choices and keeping our bodies active. This goal is part of every day at Preschool and will enable children to make healthy choices.

Lynmore School would like to hear from any parents who are wanting to enrol their children at school in the new term and for term one.

Happy Father's Day Dads

End of term Friday 23rd September and term four starts on Monday 10th October.

For enquires contact Debbie on 362 8606 office@lakeokarekapreschool.co.nz or visit www.lakeokarekapreschool.co.nz or like us on Facebook.

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OKAREKA GARDEN BIRD SURVEY RESULTS—2016

For the last three years, the Okareka Garden Bird Survey has been carried out annually during the 9-day period covering the last weekend in June and the first weekend in July. This coincides with the timing of the National Garden Bird Survey. The number of birds of each species seen during a one-hour period are recorded, with care taken not to count the same bird twice. This methodology differs from the National Garden Bird Survey, where the highest number of a species seen at any one time is recorded.

Between 10 and 13 households have taken part each year with four of these participating each year. We really appreciate your participation. Long term, the garden bird survey will provide an indication of trends in bird numbers around Okareka.

The average number of each bird species seen in a garden was calculated by averaging across all gardens. Calculating the average using gardens where birds are fed gave similar results.

The average number for 2016 was lower/slightly lower than in 2014 and 2015 for several species including blackbird, house sparrow, silvereye, greenfinch, myna, song thrush, and starling. In contrast, the average number of tui was higher than in 2014 and 2015, while the average number of bellbird and kereru were slightly higher.

The most commonly observed species (seen in 60% or more of the gardens in each year) were bellbird, blackbird, house sparrow, kereru, silvereye and tui. It is not known whether these observations reflect a real increase/ decrease in bird numbers, or whether other factors influenced the presence of birds during the survey period. For instance, one participant noted that some species normally seen in their garden were not present during the survey period. Also this year, the survey period was much wetter than in the two previous years. Results from a longer period than three years are needed to establish long-term trends. The National Garden Bird Survey has now been running for 10 years and some of the results can be found on the internet (type New Zealand Garden Bird Survey in your browser).

Jenny Grace for Landcare Okareka

Thank you to Jenny for analysing the survey results and preparing the report.



LAKE OKAREKA WALKING TRACK REPORT—SEPTEMBER 2016

Many people have been to inspect the progress of the track so far, while we have been working on the track. We are often asked lots of questions by the public, such as "Who is building this track? Is it the Department of Conservation (DOC) or Rotorua District Council (RDC)?" A lot of people are quite surprised to learn that this is a community volunteer project, funded primarily from proceeds of the DOC camp on Millar Road, and from charitable trust grants. We thought it would be a good time to publish some historic background in the form of a timeline, for the Lake Okareka Walking Track project.

Early 1980's: About 35 years ago Lake Okareka Ratepayers' and Residents' Assn (LORRA - LOCA's predecessor) mooted the idea of a walking track to go around Lake Okareka from Acacia Road to the outlet, along the ridgeline and returning to Boyes beach.

1997 -1998: Member of the LORRA Committee, Rod Stace, prepared a feasibility study on this proposed track. This study was used to assist Rotorua District Council with developing and negotiating the current Lake Okareka Walkway from Acacia Road to the outlet, with adjoining landowners of Longfords Farm, the Playne family.

2001-2002: The Lake Okareka Walkway was constructed by Rotorua District Council (RDC) during this time, using a large grant from Bay of Plenty Regional Council Environmental Enhancement Fund (BOPRC EEF).

Winter 2005: Lake Okareka Walkway was upgraded with a boardwalk kickrail added, composting toilets installed, shade shelter and bird hide built, seats added, and improvements to the last section of the walkway to the outlet including some sets of steps and a bridge. This was all completed as a joint project with Landcare Okareka and RDC using another BOPRC EEF grant.

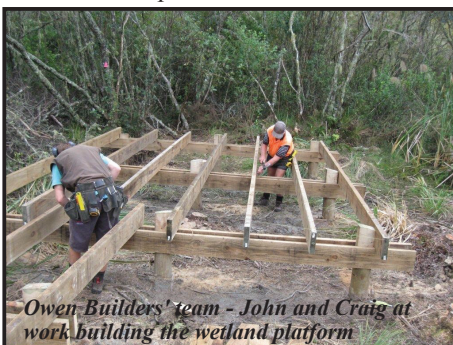
June 2009: The LORRA Committee wrote to DOC proposing the construction of a walking track from Boyes beach to the Lake Okareka outlet.

22 October 2009: A publicly advertised meeting to discuss the proposal was attended by 60 people from Lake Okareka and Rotorua areas. Names were taken for future walking track committees and volunteers.

11 November 2009: A walk through of the proposed line of the track with Dept of Conservation staff. Track was GPSed and photos taken. As a result a map of the proposed route was prepared.

December 2009: Letters written to iwi, DOC, RDC, BOPRC, walking and tramping clubs and any other interested groups or persons to inform them about the project, and to seek their support.

23 March 2010: Walking Track Committee, a sub committee of LORRA was formed to work on the Assessment of Environmental Ef-



fects (AEE) as required by Dept of Conservation; to consult with and gain approval from all affected parties; to gain consents for construction, where required; to make an estimate of costs; to investigate funding options.

2010-2011: Writing the AEE Report for Dept of Conservation and all that entailed; estimates of materials required and costs to form a draft budget for project.

Oct 2011: Lake Okareka Community Assn (LOCA - LORRA's successor) was offered the opportunity by Nicola Douglas, Rotorua Lakes Area Manager, DOC to make an application to manage the Dept of Conservation's campsite and day amenity area, Millar Road, Lake Okareka. It was seen by both parties that camp income after expenses could be a means of helping fund the proposed walking track along with other conservation projects in the catchment. Lake Okareka community volunteers had been assisting DOC to manage the camp over the previous two years.

Feb 2012: Plans and specifications for the boardwalks and bridges for the Proposed Walking Track were drawn up by DOC approved engineer, Paul Richardson. These became part of the AEE and were paid for jointly by DOC and LOCA.

13 April 2012: The AEE was finally completed and signed off by Nicola Douglas, Rotorua Lakes Area Manager, DOC.

Dec 2012: The Management Agreement between DOC and LOCA to manage the DOC camp and day amenity area was signed.

2012 - current time: Volunteers from the Lake Okareka community have worked to manage the camp and accumulate by their efforts a nest egg fund to help pay for contractors, tools and materials to be used for constructing the track.

2 Oct 2014: Anaru Rangihueua, kaumatua for Tuhourangi iwi gives a karakia for track work beginning and turns the first sod.

11 Oct 2014: First working bee held on the track at the DOC camp end, clearing vegetation. Since then working bees have been held on a regular basis to clear vegetation and bench the track route.

2014 - 2015: Estimates of materials required and costings for the track updated.

June 2015: Quotes sought from professional builders for timber constructed boardwalks.

Sept-Nov 2015: LOCA Committee approved funding applications to be made.

24 Sept 2015: Meeting with RDC Parks and Recreation team at Boyes beach to discuss formation of gravel track across Boyes beach to car park, as part of the new track.

Oct-Nov 2015: Grant applications were filed for funding of professionally constructed timber boardwalks, as per the plans and specifications.



Mike Goodwin (left) and Andy Eastcott (right) hard at work benching and clearing a new section of the track

Oct-Nov 2015: Gorse clearing from the Boyes beach end - working bees (2), held in partnership with club members from Te Au Rere Waka Ama Club, for the walking track and waka ama storage lawn area.

Nov-Dec 2015: \$85,000 in funding approved from four funding agencies.

14 Feb 2016: Site visit along track route with John Owen from Owen Builders, who had the successful quote to build the boardwalks.

10 March 2016: With DOC's approval, "The Specialist" arborist team (Thomas Rika and team) felled and removed all of the dead willow, black-woods and wattles along the line of the track between the Millar Road stream and the wetland stream.

21 March 2016: The building contract was signed between LOCA and Owen Builders for the construction of the Lake Okareka walking track boardwalks.

30 March 2016: Owen Builders commence work.

6 April 2016: Visit to Rotorua Quarry and Terry Moore to discuss gravel and delivery of - for walking track. Rotorua Quarry offered to supply all gravel required (250 cu m+) free of charge. Terry Moore offered cartage at minimal or no cost.

15 April 2016: Contractor carries out stump grinding along walking track.

April - May 2016: Brian Law, track building supervisor, took four weeks annual leave, assisted by Mike Goodwin, to commence timber edging work to help with access for the builder to further boardwalk construction sites along the track.

25 April 2016: "Beaver dam" - logs and branches removed from wetland stream ready for new boardwalk.

May 2016: Truck load of timber delivered to the jetty and boat ramp, transported by barge to track beach, along from Boyes beach.

11 May 2016: LOCA Committee agreed to purchase compact tractor and custom built trailer and a container for storage of these - all to be funded from DOC camp profits.

6 June 2016: Compact tractor delivered - Massey Fergusson 1705 from Piko Tractors, Te Ngae Road, Rotorua.

16 June 2016: Second hand shipping container delivered and installed to rear of Te Waiariki Purea Trust compound, with their and RDC's approval.

29 June 2016: Custom built trailer for carting gravel, was collected from Prescott Trailers, Te Puke.

19 August 2016: Owen Builders completed construction of all boardwalks. Just mesh to be added to tops of boardwalks, once gravel cartage has been completed.

Timber edging, laying of geo textiles and gravel for the rest of the track is on going and likely to take several more months. The track is useable for walking and running.



Brian Law hard at work putting in track edging

Please be aware you may encounter uneven surfaces and slippery patches especially during and after rain. You may also encounter volunteers working along the track. Please heed signage and directions. Please be careful.

We have had assistance over the last two years of track construction from personnel from NZ Airforce and ANZ Bank Fenton Street branch, as well as over 1800 hours of volunteer labour involved with the project from October 2014 to June 2016 from other supportive individuals and groups.

If you are interested to go onto the volunteer list to help with working bees please contact Sandra Goodwin 07 362 8865 or email sgoodwin@actrix.co.nz.

Brian Law, Volunteer Track Construction Supervisor and Mike Goodwin, Volunteer Assistant—September 2016



Gravel spreading with the new tractor and trailer. Left to right: Brian Law raking gravel off new trailer; Mike Goodwin driving the new tractor and trailer; and Paul Gurran helping to take gravel off the trailer.

The 2016 Annual Report for the Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust included the following reference to the Lake Okareka Boardwalk. Page 9 of the report under the Energy & Environment heading with a background of the lake.

Lake Okareka Boardwalk

The Trust contributed towards the cost of materials and equipment for this project in support of the many local volunteers and thousands of hours which went into the building of the boardwalk. This long term legacy project opens up the lake and its environs to locals and visitors alike, and is in keeping with the Trust's focus of investing in facilities that benefits the wider community and supports the development of a vibrant community-in this case, creating an asset that highlights the regions great natural beauty.

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ARE LAKE OKAREKA STREAMS HEALTHY?

For our science fair project we did research on stream health at Lake Okareka. We learned about how invertebrates are indicators of stream health and some invertebrates are highly sensitive to pollutants. We collected and counted numbers of invertebrates at upper and lower sites on Mrs Playnes' and Boyes Beach streams. We used a Stream Health Monitoring and Assessment Kit (SHMAK) borrowed from the regional council to collect and identify the invertebrates.

We found that both streams are healthy because of the numbers of high sensitivity invertebrates such as caddisflies in Mrs Playnes' stream and mayflies and caddisflies in the Boyes Beach stream.

We think it is a useful finding for kids and others who are swimming in the lake to know that the water flowing into the lake is healthy enough to support invertebrates that are sensitive to pollutants.

We would like to encourage other kids living in lake communities to take an interest in stream health as an indicator of lake quality. It is easy and fun to measure and might help us to act sooner if there are warnings signs of decreasing stream health. To this end we have put together a basic Stream Health Monitoring and Assessment Kit (SHMAK) for kids to use in future studies. The kit will be held with Mr Mike Goodwin who helped us with the study. Thanks Mike.



Collecting water samples from stream on Lake Okareka Walkway are, Didi Lawson (left) and Jack Eggleston (right)

By the way, our study won the Department of Conservation Science Award at the Regional Science Fair.

Jack Eggleston and Didi Lawson

Regional Science Fair 2016 Award Department of Conservation Environmental Science Trophy went to local Lake Okareka students Jack Eggleston (left) and Didi Lawson (right) for their project "Are Lake Okareka's water ways healthy?". Jack and Didi are Year 8 students at Mokoia Intermediate. They won this award competing against all regional intermediate and secondary students entered. Great work!



GOOD NEWS FOR LAKE OKAREKA PEST TRAPPERS

Just a snippet of good news for the team trapping pests in the Lake Okareka riparian area to help protect the wetland birds, including the dab chicks. The good news is that you are also helping to protect local endemic vegetation including the white mistletoe (*Tupeia antarctica*) and small-flowered mistletoe (*Ileostylus micranthus*) which are both endangered species. DOC staff, assisted by some local volunteers have recently completed a survey of mistletoe in the Rotorua Lakes area. It appears that mistletoe plants of both species are flourishing here at Lake Okareka because of all of the animal pest control happening in the area - Rotorua Forest and Bird volunteers carrying out the pest control programme in Tikitapu Scenic Reserve, which is supported by local property owners maintaining rat bait stations and the loan Timm's possum traps and also the trapping team undertaking animal pest control in the riparian strip around Lake Okareka. See the DOC article on page 12 in this newsletter about the results of the recent mistletoe count.

To easily observe the flourishing white mistletoe plants, have a look at the host plants growing in the riparian area beside Lake Okareka Loop Road opposite Summit Road entrance up to 12 Okareka Loop Road. Host plants such as tree lucerne are now hosting numerous flourishing white mistletoe plants.

The new walking track from Boyes beach to the DOC camp has enabled animal pest trapping lines in the riparian area along from Boyes beach, with DOC's permission. If you or your children observe the wooden trapping boxes please leave them alone. They are performing a very important role in the environment here at Lake Okareka. One of the trapping volunteers has also been successfully using some Timm's traps after observing signs of possums on top of the trapping boxes in their line. So far 12 possums have been taken out from a small area along the lake edge.



What is even better to report is that some mistletoe plants growing on five finger (*Pseudopanax arboreus*) in this same small area are now recovering (see photo above). Last summer/autumn it was observed that these mistletoe plants had no leaves or shoots left as they were constantly being eaten by possums in that particular area. Now the plants have shoots and leaves developing. Great work by the trapping team of volunteers!

*Above is a recent photo taken to show new re-growth of mistletoe on a five finger (*Pseudopanax arboreus*) tree adjacent to the new walking track between Boyes beach and the DOC camp. The new track is allowing access for pest control work by local volunteers, in this case possums which just love eating mistletoe and the host plant, five finger.*

LAKESHORE TRAPPING

We have been trapping for predators with kill traps around the lake edge for three years. We started off with 15 traps given to us by DOC, LOCA has invested in some and others have been donated by locals. We now have 63 traps. Over the last three years we have spent 450 hours checking and maintaining the traps. The known kills are:

Rats	679
Hedgehogs	112
Mustelids	28
Feral Cats	2

Over the last few months Spotless Crake – Puweto have been seen along both walkways, Acacia Road and heard in the raupo by the dog exercise area. These little blackbird sized birds are seldom seen. In fact one ardent bird-watcher I know of has not seen one in 40 years of birding.

We like to think that these birds are around here as the result of our trapping efforts as these native birds are another ground nester.

Please remember it is the breeding season and it is important that birds are not disturbed by people, dogs and boating wake. So if you are in or near the lake please give them some thought.

If you have any ideas, questions or want to help with trapping please ring Mike Vincent on 0274 781 899.

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LAKE OKAREKA FISHING CLUB

The 10th Anniversary of the Lake Okareka Fishing Club's winter Tournament was held on the 9th and 10th of July. It attracted 63 entrants and a total of 57 fish were weighed in. This was not a bad effort considering the appalling conditions!

Once again many thanks to our weigh masters John Herbert and Eben Herbert without these guys it would be a very difficult competition to run.

Thanks to Hunting and Fishing Rotorua for donating all the spot prizes.

Also thanks also to Nita and the Van Boven family for introducing a new trophy to the winter competition. The trophy is for Best Condition Factor—Junior. We hope it will be keenly contested next year.

Prize winners:

Biggest Bag Individual	John Herbert	15 fish
Biggest Bag Team	The Herberts	15 fish
Biggest Bag Family	Phibbs Family	10 fish
Biggest Bag Junior	Emma Phibbs	7 fish
Heaviest Trout – Adult Male	Eben Herbert	2.09kgs
Heaviest Trout – Adult Female	Brenna Douglas	1.86kgs
Heaviest Trout – Junior	George Agnew	1.73kgs
Best Condition Factor—Adult	John Lees	48.38
Best Condition Factor—Junior	Amy Van Boven	44.99

If anyone has any fresh ideas regarding the fishing competition or is interested in joining the committee please contact Dean Foster on 3628 960 or Jason Douglas on 3628 448.



Weigh masters and prize winners Eben and John Herbert





*Lucy & Emma Phibbs
Biggest Bag Family*



*Emma Phibbs
Biggest Bag Junior*



*George Agnew
Heaviest Fish Junior*



George with his winning trout and brother Logan



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BOB'S TABLE AND SEATS AT ACACIA ROAD LAKEFRONT

The van Boven family would like to thank the Community of Lake Okareka for the donations they made towards the picnic table and seats erected at the Lake Front in memory of Bob, where he spent many happy hours. The table and seats were crafted by his son George and we all look forward to continuing his tradition of yarnning over a beer with mates on a summers evening.



UPCOMING EVENTS AT LAKE TIKITAPU

Date	Event Name	Lake	Reserve
Fri 7 - Sun 9 October 2016	Kayak Regatta, Canoe Racing NZ	Blue Lake	Blue Lake
Sat 15 October 2016	Rowing Regatta, BOP Rowing Association	Blue Lake	Blue Lake
Fri 2 - Sun 4 December 2016	Kayak Regatta, Canoe Racing NZ	Blue Lake	Blue Lake
Sat 17 December 2016	Rotorua Half Ironman, Brand New Day	Blue Lake	Blue Lake
Fri 20 - Sun 22 January 2017	Blue Lake Regatta, Rotorua Rowing Club	Blue Lake	Blue Lake
Sat 27 - Sun 28 January 2017	Blue Lake Multisport Festival, Rotorua Associate of Triathletes	Blue Lake	Blue Lake
Sat 12 Feb 2017	Tarawera Ultramarathon, NZ Trail Run		Blue Lake / Boyes Beach
Sun 18 Feb 2017	Open Water Swim (NZ Ocean Series), Quantum Events Ltd	Blue Lake	Blue Lake
Sat 25 Feb 2017	Blue Miller, NZ Water Ski Racing Association	Blue Lake	Blue Lake
Sun 26 - Fri 31 March 2017	Te Waiariki Pūrea Trust, National Secondary Schools Waka Ama Regatta 2016	Blue Lake	Blue Lake
Sat 8 April 2017	Xterra 2016, First Tier Sports Production	Blue Lake	Blue Lake

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

Mobile Library Service

The Rotorua Public Library mobile bus visits Lake Okareka every **2nd Monday from 2.00pm to 2.45pm** stopping outside the fire station on Okareka Loop Rd. Next dates are 26 September, 10 October but not on 24 October (Labour Day).

The mobile library carries a good selection of fiction and non-fiction books for all ages, including large print, magazines and children's jigsaws. Special requests can be made for talking books, music CD's and cassettes, DVDs and videos and specific subjects. The mobile librarian is happy to discuss ways to improve their service. Contact the library on 348 4177 for more information.



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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. **Please phone Mike Goodwin on 3628865.**

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

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

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

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

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 outside the fire station from 2pm to 2.45pm. Please contact the Rotorua Library on 348 4177 for further information.

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