



THE NEWSLETTER

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

Winter 2019

www.lakeokareka.org

The Newsletter

of the

Lake Okareka Community Association (LOCA)

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Liz Harding **Secretary** **3628 108**

Kim Lorigan **Treasurer** **3628 320**

Matt Harvey **3628 971** **Dennis Falconer** **3628 737**

Gregg Brown **029 346 0108** **Mitch Collins** **027 574 1456**

Colin Jackson **021 306 378** **Paul Martelli** **3628 817**

Peter Muys **021 950 279**

DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

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

Front Cover:

The Fishermen—Lake Okareka Fishing Competition.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

You may recall that earlier in the year the LOCA committee decided on five things that we wanted to progress this year. These are:



- ≡ Contracted track maintenance plan in place
- ≡ Acceptable security camera solution
- ≡ Continue to lobby for road safety solutions to calm traffic in Lake Okareka
- ≡ Walkway project progressed to stage of 'diggers ready to dig'
- ≡ 1/5 households engaged with Predator Free Okareka

As we are roughly half way through the current committees year of office this newsletter is a timely opportunity to bring you up to date with progress.

Contracted track maintenance plan in place

We have recently engaged a contractor to cut back vegetation and to clean out the tracks drains, this work was finished in July. Further vegetation trimming and drain cleaning will be done again later in the year if required. One thing will need to be done before summer is some remedial work on the track where the gravel has either settled or eroded.

Acceptable security camera solution

It is proposed that we have cameras on Loop Rd that are part of the Councils crime prevention camera network. We need your help with this as the Council will not assist us to progress this further if we do not have a majority of the community in favour. Please take the time to complete and return the questionnaire accompanying this newsletter.

Continue to lobby for road safety solutions to calm traffic in Lake Okareka

Once again we need your help [by responding to the enclosed questionnaire](#). The Council has agreed to appoint an engineer to find a range of solutions for us to consider. They will only commit to this if a majority of the community are in favour.

Walkway project progressed to stage of 'diggers ready to dig'

The LOCA committee is currently working on the preparation of a resource consent application for the extension of the walkway between the DOC camp and Council walkway at the lake outlet.

1/5 households engaged with Predator Free Okareka

Last year we received a grant of \$2,500 from Predator Free NZ to promote backyard trapping. We had a campaign to get people to have a rat or possum trap in their back yard this has had not a lot of uptake. Forest and Bird and Lake Okareka Landcare have been conducting pest control on public land and backyard trapping will help support this work. Forest and Bird have told us that their most productive traps are those that are at the bush edge near Lake Okareka's houses. We will soon be starting another campaign to get households involved.

Jetty Upgrade

You will have no doubt seen the work that has gone to upgrade the jetty and boat ramp. On the surface this looks great, underwater things are not so good. The construction has resulted in a reduced depth of water available for launching and retrieving boats. This **is** particularly bad for inboard motors. We have drawn this to the attention of the Council and at the time of writing are waiting to see **how** they propose to solve this.

Please take the time to complete and return the questionnaire so we can get moving on reducing traffic speed and possibly installing crime prevention cameras.

Mike Vincent, LOCA - Chairman

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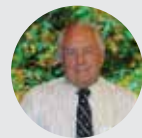
Please call one of our lake specialists today, for a confidential chat.



Anita Martelli AREINZ
027 552 6482



Tim O'Sullivan
0274 974 986



Norman Donald
0274 950 189



Congratulations

To all the winners in the Lake Okareka Fishing Competition and to Aroha Royal for winning the Ray White Bike for the heaviest fish in the female category!



LAKE OKAREKA VOLUNTEER RURAL FIRE

Hi all

Following another busy summer of vegetation fire call-outs and a series of deployments to Southland, Nelson and Victoria (Australia), activity for the Lake Okareka Rural Fire as we have moved into the winter months has primarily focused on training, including participating in a recent large scale live burn co-ordinated incident scenario.

In May, another team from Lake Okareka took on the annual Sky Tower Firefighter Stair Climb. This year, the team was split, with two members completing the usual event of climbing 51 floors in 25kg of firefighter kit, and three others participating in a new Rural Fire event which involved climbing an additional 9 floors (total of 60 floors) carrying a chainsaw instead of an oxygen cylinder. All of the team completed their events with very respectable times, achieving a first, two seconds and a third in their various categories.

In June, a 'turning of the soil' ceremony, which was attended by members of FENZ, Rotorua Lakes Council and the local community, took place at the fire station to signify the start of the new station build project. Site works for the project are due to get underway mid to late August.

As the cold weather lingers on for the next couple of months, take care on the roads around the area which may still become greasy or slippery in wet and icy conditions. Also, if you have been using your fire a lot over the winter, don't forget to clean your chimney regularly, and remember the 'metre from the heater' rule if drying washing near the fire or heating appliances.

If you have been thinking about joining and would like to see what we are about, 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

Due to start

April 2019

Due to finish

August 2019

Lake Okareka is getting fibre

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TIKITAPU SCENIC RESERVE PEST CONTROL PROGRAMME

Working bees to check and clear the bait lines commenced again in May and a good start was made in preparation for the actual pest control. Our first working bees to put out the rat bait were on 21st and 22nd July.

Last year, baffles were fitted to the Philproof bait stations and proved to be very successful in preventing possums taking the bait intended for the rats.

Consequently the amount of Pindone required was greatly reduced. This year, alternate lines will have Romark bait stations for the Feratox® (cyanide) and the results will be compared to the Feratox® bio bags used on the other lines. Dave Edwards, who designed and trialed the baffles used last year, has been investigating using the Romark stations and his trials and videos have shown that if the Romarks are 250 -275mm from the ground, possums have no trouble lifting the lid on the stations and getting the bait, but rats end up sitting on the lid and so are unable to open it. . Many thanks to Dave for sharing his findings with us and to Mike Goodwin for installing all the Romark stations.

Monthly checks have been done on the Nature and Mistletoe tracks and any trimming or clearance of windfalls attended to. The Good Nature traps have also been checked monthly and any kills or counter strikes found have been recorded.

This project is dependent on volunteers and I wish to thank all those who have been involved over the past months. It is always good to have some new people involved in the project and new volunteers are most welcome. Working bees start at 9am and normally finish by 12noon at the latest. There is a “cuppa” and something to eat when you get back to base. I would love to hear from you if you are interested in becoming involved with this project.

Kind regards,

Frances Blakely

Ph 362 8480

email jandfblakely@gmail.com

Tikitapu Working Bee Programme for remainder of 2019

***Top up D Blocks and Feratox as required**

Sunday 1st and Monday 2nd September

***Clear stations of remaining D Block and Feratox®**

Sunday 15th & Monday 16th September

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Lake Okareka Preschool News



The Preschool held our AGM in June and we have a new Chairperson: Carl Iversen. We are fortunate to maintain our existing Board Members and welcome to our newest Board member Sharon Ward. The Preschool reviewed its Philosophy to include teaching practices and values around sustainability. The teaching team, board and parents felt this was an integral part of what we do and aim to achieve appreciation of recycle-reduce-reuse. We have an article in the latest Mokoia Community Association newsletter featuring learning about storm water, drains in our community and looking after our lakes. The community orchard has produced a good crop of feijoas that have been used in cooking and sharing with our community. The children have been learning about caring for our environment, each other and how to keep safe in emergencies such as a fire or earthquake. We recently held a special morning tea and teddy bear story time to celebrate Matariki. As part of these celebrations the children are sharing how their name was chosen and the family history behind it. We have begun learning about family cultures and linking Maori legends to developing our own art.

Parent's evening

As part of our Fundraising this year we held our second parent evening to make beeswax kai wraps. This was also a time to create peach and ginger jam from our earlier peaches crop. It's sure to be delicious. Both the kai wraps and jam will be on sale at this year's Tarawera Spring Fair.

Playgroup each Tuesday

Our Playgroup is now offered weekly. This is open to families who would like to come and visit the Preschool. We ask parents to come in and meet other parent's who will soon be enrolling children at Preschool. The children are transitioning well into Preschool once they have participated in our Playgroup time. If you know of anyone in the area or would be interested in coming in for a visit feel free to pop in or give us a call soon. Playgroup times are 9.30 -11.30

Hall Bookings

For all hall bookings please contact Debbie at Preschool 362 8606



Please like us on facebook

www.lakeokarekapreschool.co.nz



Larning how to make paper



Teddys' Picnic



Planting garlic



Shared morning tea for Matariki



Teddys relaxing after a hard day with the kids

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Landcare Okareka Report: Winter 2019



Volunteers from Landcare Okareka (LO) have been quietly working away on several projects in various reserves, and in some cases on privately owned land, within the Lake Okareka catchment area.

Over the drier and warmer summer and autumn months Landcare Okareka volunteers have carried out track maintenance work, fixing holes, etc along the Lake Okareka Walkway. We had expected that RDC would get this work done. We have also had cleaning up working bees at several of the reserves that we have planted and now monitor for weed regrowth, etc.

Lake Okareka Walkway Maintenance:

As far as the Lake Okareka Walkway in concerned (from Acacia Road car park), Landcare Okareka Steering Committee (LOSC) have tried to keep pressure on Rotorua Lakes Council (RLC) to carry out work on removing the large flaxes that were planted along the Walkway, in a couple of sections. Landcare Okareka was NOT involved in planting these flaxes. That planting was done following the planting plan created by Tessa Bunny, Landscape Architect for RDC at that time. To be fair, RLC have recently sent workers from Infracore out to trim some of the flax leaves, so that they are not trip hazards for people using the walkway.

In the past LO volunteers have undertaken trimming of the *Phormium tenax* flax along the Walkway on numerous occasions...it is quite hard, physical work. Back in April 2015 RDC Parks and Reserves person Brent Smith got Castlecorp to come to remove the flaxes with a digger. It was a bit of a disaster really as the digger they brought to use was much too small and only a few flaxes were dug out and moved. Since then each year LO chases RDC/RLC personnel up to get more of the flaxes moved...nothing happens. This year there was a change in staff at RLC Parks, Recreation and Environment, and Simon Alefosio-Tuck and Richard Dahlenburg actually met with some of LOSC members to discuss what was required. We said we did not mind if the whole lot of flaxes were not done in one year. We just wanted them to make a start. That hasn't happened, but Council staff have said that they will keep the flaxes trimmed, so we will see...

Boyes beach / Millar Road Wetland:

LO Volunteer Brian Law, at some times assisted by LO volunteer Mike Goodwin, has been quietly working away on weeds in the Millar Road wetland – either cutting out or poisoning or both. They were assisted in tree removal of dead willow that had potential to be problems, by the DOC Wilding Pine team, along with LO volunteers Steve Goodin, Steffen Lotzmann, Mike Goodwin and Brian Law. Thanks to Mike Goodwin, LO volunteer and Paul Cashmore from DOC, for organising this work. Two areas on the edges of the wetland will be ready for planting this winter. As I have said in previous Newsletters, the Millar

Road wetland area will be the main focus for LO volunteers over the coming years. We hope to be able to include iwi from Tuhourangi, as the landowners in this work now and into the future.

Koaro Native Fish monitoring:

LOSC is pleased to report that the koaro native fish in the Millar Road wetland have been monitored again this summer, thanks to our BOPRC Land Management Officer, Colin Bates and to Dr Ian Kusabs, NZ native fish expert who is the fisheries advisor to Te Arawa Lakes Trust - and he lives locally at Lake Okareka! How lucky are we!

A quote from Dr Ian Kusabs report which Landcare Okareka are particularly mindful of, especially when considering the future restoration of this very special wetland:

"The koaro population, although healthy, appears to be confined to a relatively small area of Boyes Stream,...". "Given this small area, the population [sic. of koaro] is particularly vulnerable to introduced pests and habitat disturbance. It is recommended that predator trapping continues in the surrounding habitat as koaro are susceptible to predation by rats (and mustelids) particularly when they are spawning (Pers. Obs. I. Kusabs). In addition, care should be taken when controlling willow trees especially those next to the stream. Although these are invasive plants, they do provide shade and most likely food (terrestrial insects) for koaro in Boyes Stream. It is recommended that willow trees are gradually replaced with suitable native species".

continued over...

	<p>Breakfast Lunch Dinner</p> <p>Ph 348 8818 www.Capers.co.nz</p>
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Bat Monitoring in the Lake Okareka catchment:

This work is under Landcare Okareka's agreement with both DOC and BOPRC. A full report will appear elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Working Bees: Plantings:

Saturday 24th August 2019: from 9 am to 12 noon, or until we finish.

Planting: this is a joint Working Bee between volunteers from Landcare Okareka, Rotorua branch of Forest & Bird and Rotorua Botanical Society in the **Tikitapu Scenic Reserve**, opposite Benn Road turn off, Lake Okareka.

Everyone welcome. Morning tea and drinking water provided. Please wear suitable warm clothing and strong footwear. Bring gardening gloves and spades for planting, if you have one.

Saturday 24th September 2019: Planting, once again in **Millar Road wetland area**, see as above. All plants for working bees being supplied by BOPRC, with some donated plants. Please contact Sandra Goodwin, Secretary Landcare Okareka, 362 8865 or email slgoodwin.nz@gmail.com for more

**Automatic External Defibrillators (AED)**

We have 2 community AED units at Lake Okareka, which are located on the outside of private properties, they are available to the public 24/7.

The best way to find an AED is to use the AED Locations or GoodSAM Responder App on your phone. The App will tell you where the nearest unit is to your current location. Alternatively access the website <https://aedlocations.co.nz/>

An AED is used to restart a heart that has stopped (cardiac arrest). An AED delivers a short, powerful electric shock to help the heart regain its natural rhythm. The use of an AED can increase the survival chances by up to 40%. Without an AED, chance of survival is only 5 to 8%, even with CPR.

AED's are easy to use and simple. Clear step-by-step voice instructions coach you through every step of first aid defibrillation and CPR. There are three steps to operating an AED – pull handle, apply pads, shock.

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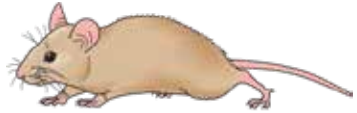
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Rat Bait and Bait Stations



Thank you to everyone who has been rat baiting over the last few months. There is plenty of rat bait available and it is a very good idea to keep the bait stations stocked up to help protect nesting and fledgling bird life over the next couple of months.

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 lake side properties involved with rat bait stations. We believe that we are seeing the benefit of both the rat bait programme on private land, as well as the trapping programme in the lake side reserve areas.

If you are interested to have a bait station on your property, 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 slgoodwin.nz@gmail.com We have a type of lockable bait station available, like a small suitcase. They also have locating pins for the bait. Cost of these is \$20

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 24 rat baits. This is enough bait to fill one bait station 4 times over a few months. 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 \$20, 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.

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Fishing Competition Results

It was another successful fishing competition, with great weather on Saturday (although not so great on Sunday...). Entries were down from last year with 46 people signed up but twice the number of fish caught per person with 90 fish weighed in over the 2 days. Fish were of a good size and condition for the time of year, with the largest fish caught being above the historical average. It was fantastic to see the high number of Juniors entering the competition with them making up one third of all entries.

Prize winners were as follows:

Heaviest Fish Overall - Chase Lees (2.49 kg)
Heaviest Fish Junior - Luca Batenburg (1.76 kg)
Heaviest Fish Ladies - Aroha Royal (1.18 kg)
Biggest Bag - Eben Herbert (11 fish)
Best Condition Factor Junior - Alex Ironmonger (47.71)
Biggest Bag Family - Nebula/Bowyer (6 fish)
Biggest Bag Team - Team Herbert (22 fish)
Biggest Bag Junior - Keita Te Moni (4 fish)

Big thank you to Anita Martelli at Ray White, Hunting and Fishing Rotorua and The Good Eastern for sponsoring prizes.





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BAYLEYS

Dr Ron Caughey Memorial Yacht Race 2019 New Years Day

Congratulations to all race entrants for sailing a great race at this annual community event - it was the 43rd consecutive New Year's Day race.

It was a glorious Okareka summer's day, warm with light steady breezes that provided scope for some yachtie competition and fun.

Special congratulations go to the first 3 place getters who all crossed the line within 2 minutes:

- 1st Place - Gary Vogels sailing a laser
- 2nd Place - Alex Daprini sailing a laser
- 3rd Place - Harry Lusk sailing a laser

For Gary it is his third time to win the race; first in 1990 and again in 1993. An old timer in the game!

Special prize for Sportsmanship was awarded to Aaron and Tirini Hemi – This father and son team had an unavoidable setback at the start and in keen spirit did not let it hold them back.

Special thanks go to Mike Smith and his support team for laying the race course and for retrieving the buoys and more - tasks that Mike has so willingly undertaken over many years.

Thanks also to Mike and Sandra Goodwin and to the Smith family for their essential race support, in providing standby rescue boats!

Appreciation also goes to Fernando Alves, timekeeper for the race.

Very particular thanks go to Grant and Shona Telfer, the owner/operators of:

Telfer Marine Ltd, 236 Te Ngae Road (cnr Hamiora Place) Rotorua Tel: 07-345-9854

Telfer Marine has supported the race over many years by donating the first prize - a top quality life jacket. This long-standing tradition is greatly appreciated.

We look forward to seeing everyone next year for the 44th yacht race.

Christine Caughey



2019 Dr Ron Caughey Memorial Yacht Race Winners:
*From Left to Right: 2nd place Alex Dapirini; 1st place Gary Vogels;
 3rd place Harry Lusk, Best sportsmen Aaron and Tiwini Hemi.*

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We do appreciate your support to assist us in our work for the community.



Due to increasing work and family commitments our current editor is no longer able to continue working on the newsletter, so it's time for the baton to be passed on...to you??

If you are interested please contact the secretary Liz Harding via email at loca.secretary@gmail.com or phone 362 8108



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Rotorua Lakes Council (RLC) manages all lake reserve booking for events, working closely with the BOP Regional Council (BOPRC) who manage activity on the lakes. For information on what events are coming up in the area, go to

<http://www.rotorualakes.co.nz/lake-events-and-closures>

or visit

<http://www.rotoruanz.com/visit/whats-on>.


Both RLC and BOPRC 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 email the RLC community events team at

Community.Events@rotorualc.nz

or BOPRC at

Jo.Kapua@boprc.govt.nz

Martin Croft
Events Manager
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