



Lake Ōkāreka

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Newsletter *Summer 2020*

INSIDE NEWSLETTER

Lake Structure Info

Nativity Show Photos

Shinning Cuckoo

Yaght Race Photos

AGM Information

Photo Credit: Simon Watson

The Newsletter of the Lake Ōkāreka Community Association (Inc.) (LŌCA)

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Disclaimer Statement:

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

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The subscription year for LŌCA runs from 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020. We appreciate your support by way of subscription and /or donation. Please note that as LŌCA is a charitable organisation, a donation over \$5 is tax deductible.

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Chairman's Report

I would like to thank all the committee members for their hard work, knowledge, ideas and hours spent on community matters during 2019. We have had a busy year as your LōCA committee and this is a short summary of what has been happening. At the beginning of the year of the year I said there were things we could control and things we could only influence and this has certainly been the case.

We have managed the DOC camp and the Rotorua Lakes Council (RLC) Boyes Beach camp, this takes a lot of work and coordination but it is worth it. Firstly it is a regular source of income for the community via LōCA and secondly by managing the camps we have a meaningful say about what goes on at them.



Photo Credit: Simon Watson



Photo Credit: Simon Watson

The management agreement with DOC for the walking track between Boyes Beach and the DOC camp has been renewed for ten years. We have used contractors for most of the maintenance during the year with the biggest job being to repair part of the track that was damaged during the high lake levels we had a couple of years ago. After a lot of discussion regarding options such as board walking the section or placing rocks to break up wave action, we settled on a small realignment of the track to move it further away from the maximum consented height of the lake. This decision was made following discussions with the Trails Trust track builders. We believe that this and improved management of the lake levels by the Regional Council should prevent a re-occurrence of the



Mike Vincent
LōCA - Chairman
mike.vincent@xtra.co.nz

damage we had suffered. We are having further talks with the Trails Trust about improvements to the track's drainage on the sloping sections as these areas are prone to erosion.

You may have noticed construction at Boyes Beach, this is going to be a new amenities block for the camp and beach. It will include showers etc and will replace the old and cruddy block that will be demolished once the new one is up and running. LōCA's agreement with Rotorua Lakes Council (RLC) requires us to use our camp management remuneration on "community enhancements" and consequently we have committed \$50,000 towards the cost of the new facility which is due for completion at the end of March.

We have been working with the RLC to get crime prevention cameras at both ends of the Loop Rd where the settlement starts, this is a project that will be fully funded by LōCA and is estimated to cost \$40,000. These cameras will be connected with the existing camera network managed by RLC and the Police. The project requires input from Unison, Chorus, the installers and this is taking some time to achieve. Unfortunately at the time of writing a completion date is not known.



Realigned Track

For some years traffic speeds throughout Ōkāreka have caused concern. Earlier in the year at a public meeting the RLC stated that if we could get community support they would provide us solutions to solve the problem. We got positive feedback from the Ōkāreka community and asked the RLC to proceed. Once again bureaucracy took over and we have been told "Great survey result. However, Ōkāreka would not be eligible for funding under our priority programme in the short term as it doesn't actually trigger any of our policy thresholds to gain any attention/funding attributed to the problem". My interpretation of the RLC supporting information is that our recorded traffic speeds and history of crashes does not reach their trigger points. This is ironic as to get the RLC to take action we need to have higher traffic speeds and more crashes - the very things we are trying to prevent. They have also suggested that we might like to pay for engineering studies and the adopted solution, this not an option that I think we should agree to. We will be taking this up with RLC staff and politicians in the new year.

We have made good progress on permissions with LōCAI authorities and landowners towards completing the proposed walkway around the lake. An updated proposal will be presented to the community at the AGM. We have provided financial support to Ōkāreka Landcare for the purchase of traps and accessories for predator control and have committed a maximum \$9,500 for the mulching of the area between Boyes Beach reserve and the stream. This is first part of an Ōkāreka Landcare project to restore the wetland between Miller Rd and the lake.

We have funded a replacement notice board. In partnership with Mighty River Power we have funded a defibrillator and first aid kit at the hall. We have tried engaging the community to participate in backyard trapping this has had limited uptake and we will try again in 2020.

Please remember that our AGM is on Sunday February 9th at 10.00am.

Mike Vincent

Mike Vincent - LōCA Chairman



Phil Muldoon
Chief Fire Officer
pmh.ltd@xtra.co.nz

Lake Ōkāreka Volunteer Rural Fire

Well another year, and decade, has come to pass. Lake Ōkāreka Rural Fire has had another busy year, and continues to maintain a strong and growing membership. It is always a highlight to finish the year by delivering Santa to the LŌCA community carols evening and the Lake Ōkāreka Pre-school. It is also timely for me to once again thank all the volunteers for their commitment to the brigade, Fire and Emergency NZ, and the LŌCAI community.



Photo Credit: Lake Ōkāreka Preschool



Photo Credit: Lake Ōkāreka Preschool

Thanks to the ongoing work of Jason Thom at Fire and Emergency NZ (FENZ) and the Rotorua Lakes Council (RLC), initial works have commenced for the new fire station build project with Unison completing work on the underground and overhead power lines. Also, as an interim measure, as agreed through the resource consent process, FENZ have adjusted the siren on the old station to an undulating warning alarm that shuts down automatically after 90 seconds. FENZ and RLC, along with the various consultants involved, are in the process of finalizing all building requirements before site works get underway. Although this part of the process has taken longer than anticipated, it is important that time is spent on getting these critical details right to ensure the final build is fit for purpose. Lake Ōkāreka Rural Fire greatly appreciates the continued support and background work being undertaken for this project.

In May, we will have another team of fire fighters from Lake Ōkāreka competing in the annual Sky Tower Firefighter Stair Climb. We have a record number in this year's team with 11 members having

signed-up for the challenge, comprising 8 men and 3 ladies, with ages ranging from 17 to those of us in the 'more mature' category. The team will be getting underway with training for this event over the coming months, along with fundraising for Leukemia and Blood Cancer New Zealand. If you would like to support the Lake Ōkāreka Rural Fire team fundraising effort, please go to the www.firefightersclimb.org.nz website and donate online.



Regular weekly training sessions for both new and experienced fire fighters continues to be an ongoing focus for the brigade. This has also been well supported by FENZ through formal training courses that have been attended by various members. In addition to this, a number of the more experienced Lake Ōkāreka Rural Fire members are registered on the FENZ Fire Deployment database. The extreme and volatile conditions currently occurring in Australia have seen a number of New Zealand crews deployed to assist the firefighting efforts in New South Wales and Victoria since November. Further crews will be deployed in January which may again include Lake Ōkāreka personnel.

The last month or so has seen an increase in fire-related call-outs in the LŌCAI district. As hot, dry and windy conditions are projected to continue over the summer months, the fire risk will also increase. Any fire can quickly take hold and get out of control as occurred recently on the Coromandel where a fire was started by some fireworks. This provides a timely reminder that we are now in the Restricted Fire Season and any open fires must be permitted. Please be vigilant over the summer months with fire restrictions and permits, and check the conditions and any restrictions in force on the day of your permitted burn. To check the season status for your LŌCAI, please visit www.checkitsalright.nz or call 0800 658 628. Further information about fire seasons is available on www.fireandemergency.nz.

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.Ōkārekaruralfire.com.

We wish the community all the best for a safe summer holiday season.

Phil Muldoon

Phil Muldoon - Chief Fire Officer



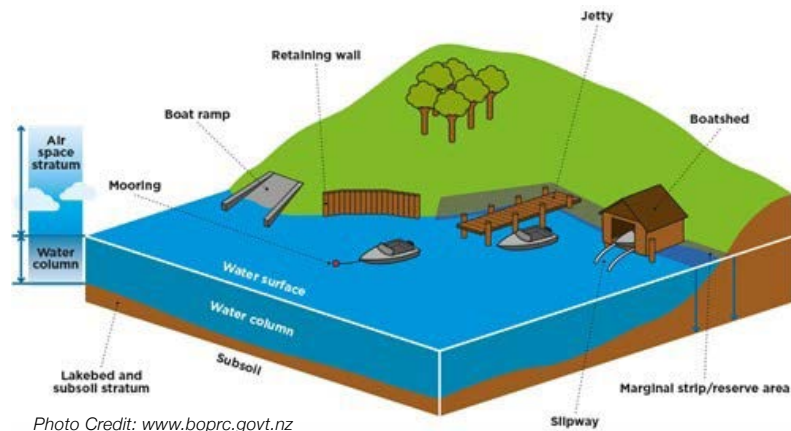
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Lake Structure Replacement Resource Consent Process

Bay of Plenty Regional Council have now received the cultural mapping report for Lake Ōkāreka. This report is available online and you can check out the assessment for your lake structure(s) at www.boprc.govt.nz/lakestructure



Lake structures with a cultural assessment of 'less than minor adverse effects' will not need to be 'notified' and will be processed during the first few months of 2020. Lake structures with a cultural assessment of 'minor or more than minor adverse effects' will be 'limited notified' and this process will get underway early in 2020. This means that all persons identified as being potentially adversely affected will be contacted about the consent application and given the opportunity to make a submission.

Please contact Regional Council if you have any questions or if you want to discuss next steps in the consenting process.

Consents Team
Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana

C H O R U S

Hi Liz

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of the Lake Ōkāreka Community Association regarding the Ultra-Fast Fibre roll out in Lake Ōkāreka.

The roll out expectations for completion is indication the expected commission date is the 28th of February 2020.

Be aware this is an estimated date and the community affected with this roll out will be advised by drop letter to contact their preferred broadband supplier once the Ultra-Fast Fibre is ready for use.

Thank you for contacting us.

Kind regards,

Martin

Service Delivery Coordinator

0800 600 100

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PO Box 6640

Auckland 1010

Tikitapu Pest Control Project



CONTRIBUTOR
Frances Blakely
Forest & Bird
jandfblakely@gmail.com

The pest control project for 2019 is now complete. This year we tried a couple of different things. Instead of using Pindone bait for rats we gave them a change of diet, and used Diaphacinone (Pestoff D). Feratox® bio bags were again used for the possums and wallabies, emptied into new Romark bait stations on alternate lines, and stapled to the trees on the other lines. Trials had shown that if placed at the correct height from the ground rats were not able to lift the lid on the Romarks to access the bait.

With the rats unable to get bait from the Romarks and the baffles on the Philproof bait stations preventing the possums getting the Diaphacinone, the amount of bait used was greatly reduced from previous years, and the kill totals higher.

Monitoring results are -

Rats

- Pre baiting 36%
- Post baiting 11%

Marsupials

- Pre baiting 30%
- Post baiting 18%

A total of 86 possums plus 2 joeys and 15 wallabies were found by the bait stations.



The Goodnature traps around the perimeter to help keep re-invasion under control, have been disappointing. Despite being checked and maintained by a team of volunteers each month they have not functioned as expected. They will be replaced with Sentinel traps for possums and DOC 200's for rats in 2020.

The 5 Minute bird count has been done in November and the data will be collated shortly.

A monthly roster of volunteers ensured the Mistletoe and Nature walks were checked and maintained.

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

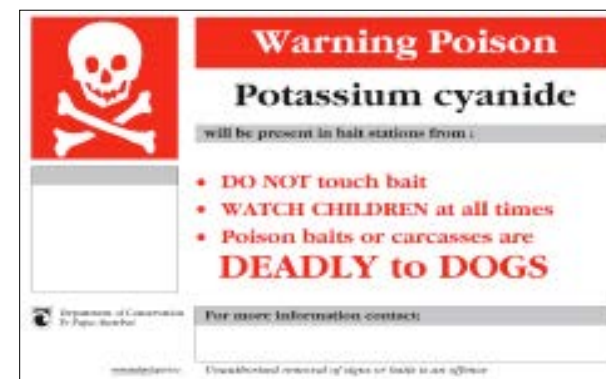


Photo Credit: www.doc.govt.nz



Photo Credit: www.doc.govt.nz

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



A big thank you to all those who have helped with the Tikitapu Pest Control Project this year. The project depends on your assistance.

New volunteers are always welcome and if anyone is interested in being involved in the pest control programme, or going on the roster to check the Nature and Mistletoe walks please let me know. Some of our older volunteers are finding they are no longer able to continue with this project and we would love to get some younger people on the volunteer list.

Frances Blakely

Frances Blakely - Forest and Bird - jandfblakely@gmail.com



Lake Ōkareka Preschool News

We have welcomed new families from Lynmore and Okere Falls this term. William Ellmers and Alida Assen have graduated to School this term and we wish them the best happy School Days

Tarawera Spring Fair

The Preschool held a stall at the Fair again this year and we sold lots of our beeswax kai wraps, worm juice and preserves. Thank you to all those that supported Leslie and Karlissa organise this event. We still have a stock of beeswax wraps here at Preschool if you would like a beeswax kai wrap.

Preschool Community Nativity Play and Community picnic

The Nativity Play was held on Friday 29th November and once again the children delighted the audience with the story of Christmas and the festive songs. It was a great night with new stars and lots of cameras flashing. The Children and their Whānau kindly donated and presented Ralph from the Salvation Army with a box of food for the families in need.



Photo Credit: Lake Ōkareka Preschool



Photo Credit: Lake Ōkareka Preschool

Following this was a great evening with the support of LōCA to celebrate the festive season with food and refreshments. Thanks to the Ōkareka fire service for delivering Santa on the night. Special thanks to Craig Kilmister for stepping in as Santa at such short notice.

CONTRIBUTORS



Debbie, Davina, Leslie
Preschool Teachers
Phone 07-362 8606

Thank you to Pam Bowyer who came in to make this year's Christmas cake to share with our community on the night of the Nativity. Santa came to visit the children at Preschool on Wednesday 11th December. This was again supported by the Ōkareka Fire service team who delivered the jolly Santa. The children were delighted to receive their special books.

Bookings for 2020 term one

Please contact the Preschool if you are considering Lake Ōkareka Preschool for your child next year. Please email office@lakeokarekapreschool.co.nz Children may start Preschool from aged two and half, as we have a wait list it is best to express and interest early to avoid disappointment.

Hall Bookings

For all Hall bookings over the holiday season please contact Carol Christian Price on 362 8702.

Happy New Year!

Debbie, Davina, Leslie

The Teaching team and Board of Lake Ōkareka Preschool

Like us on Facebook and view our website for further information.

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Photo Credit: The Lake Okareka Preschool



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Lake Ōkareka Tennis + Netball Update

2019/2020 Annual Subscription (\$100) is now due. Thanks to all those members who have already paid their \$100 sub. Payment is requested into the Clubs' Westpac A/c 03-1552-0130369-00. Reference "Sub" family name. Please e-mail confirmation of deposit to craig@blackslate.nz. This covers the period 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020.

Coaching for children on Friday afternoons (from 7 Feb 2020)

Session One (up to 7 years) starts at 4:00pm
Session Two (up to 9 years) starts at 4:45pm
Session Three (10 years & over) starts at 5:30pm
\$40 per child for Session one & \$50 per child for Sessions Two & Three
As the Club subsidizes this coaching these sessions are dependent on having a minimum number of participants.

Club House

The facility is available to anyone in the community to hire. Please contact the Club as per below for details.

Adult Tennis

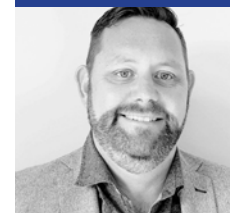
A regular group of tennis players meets every Thursday at 5:30pm for a hit. Feel free to come along and join in.

Happy New Year!

Craig Kilmster

Craig Kilmster - 027 455 9301

CONTRIBUTORS



Craig Kilmster
Tennis Coach
Phone 027 455 9301



Photo Credit: Lake Ōkareka Tennis Club



Photo Credit: Lake Ōkareka Tennis Club

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New Years Day Yacht Race

Dr Ron Caughey Memorial Yacht Race

Background History - The annual New Year's Day Yacht Race was founded in 1974 by Christine and Martin Caughey, for yachties within the Lake Ōkāreka community to have some fun together. In 1975 their father Ron Caughey died unexpectedly. He was well known as a children's physician and within the Ōkāreka community. He had holidayed since the 1930s at the holiday home of Bill and Con Calder Mackay. In the early 1940s Ron purchased land on the peninsula and over time he and his wife Catherine built a family cottage. It was their retreat. They created a wonderful environment at the lake for family and friends and for the new generations to continue to share happy days there.

Following Ron's death Robin and Alan Gee who ran the Ōkāreka Store, named the event the Dr Ron Caughey Memorial Yacht Race and presented the community with a framed aerial photograph of Lake Ōkāreka with provision for winners' names until 2069! Martin and Christine viewed this as challenging and to date, 44 years later, are proud that the community still enjoys this fun lake regatta. So began the first Dr Ron Caughey Memorial Yacht Race on New Year's Day in 1976.

Congratulations to all the 2020 race prize winners and to all the entrants who once more, brought families together at Boyes Beach, and provided a spectacle with exciting jostling on the water between sailors. As time has passed we are now seeing grandchildren of original competitors as entrants, who are enjoying the race just as their grandparents did and in some cases, still do.

First place was went to Michael Smith in a Hobie Cat, with his young grandchildren, Jonty and Nakayla Olson as his crew. Michael is also a past champion, winning in 2003, 2004, and 2006. Second place went to Harry Lusk, grandson of Ron Caughey, in a Laser. He was also the 2014 champion. Third place was taken by brothers Simon and Tim Bell in their Quicksilver 16, They were champions in both 2015 and 2016.

The most resilient sailor award was presented to Lukas Olson, grandson of Michael Smith. The Smith family has been involved for many



Champions Michael Smith with grandchildren crew, Nakayla and Jonty Olson landing their Hobie Cat after a brilliant win covering the course in just 45 minutes.



Christine Caughey
c.caughey@xtra.co.nz



Fenella Playne has supported the Dr Ron Caughey Memorial Yacht Race annually at Boyes Beach over 44 years. It is exciting to see her family following the tradition, some of whom are pictured here. Richard Caughey, son in law, (left) has been a long time entrant in his Hobie Cat. Next is Tina Playne (daughter in law), Tim Geissler (grandson), and granddaughter Hannah Playne.

years with the organisation of the race and in particular with the laying of the course that is the same as the original course that was raced over 44 years ago. Bob Van Boven is remembered for his sterling efforts as an organizer and entrant over several decades.

Many LŌCAIs enjoy the spectacle of being on the lake to watch the regatta, such is the nature of this wonderful community event. In the last five years, with increasing focus on health and safety, community members have volunteered their time in support boats, including the Smith family and the Goodwins.

We are fortunate to have the first prize gifted by Telfer Marine Ltd. They have supported the race over many years. This long-standing tradition is greatly appreciated.

Ron Caughey loved people and dedicated his professional life to improving the health and wellbeing of children and families. He would be so thrilled to see the fine community and family spirit of the annual yacht race, carried forward in his name over 44 years.

We look forward to seeing everyone next year for the 45th yacht race.

Christine Caughey

Christine Caughey



Below: Brothers Simon and Tim Bell in their Quicksilver 16 sailed into 3rd place. Simon and Tim were born and spent their childhood at Ōkāreka and they have come back to raise their children in the same magical spot.



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 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 Ōkareka. 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 LŌCating 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 LŌCating 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 LŌCated throughout Ōkareka – 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.

Sandra Goodwin

Sandra Goodwin - Landcare Ōkareka



Sandra Goodwin
Landcare Ōkareka
slgoodwin.nz@gmail.com

NEED HELP WITH MARKETING?

My name is Michelle and I've recently moved to Lake Ōkareka, I have over 24 years experience working in marketing, advertising, building websites (e-commerce and service) online sales, graphic design and helping business grow to their potential.

If you need help to increase sales, grow your audience base, maximize transactional value and be bold online with a super website or just want some advice, give me a call.



Michelle Herrick
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Report for Summer 2020

Landcare Ōkareka volunteers have continued throughout 2019 with maintenance work around all of the areas that the group has been involved with in the years since the group was formed back in May 2003. So we are now in our 16th year of being a dedicated volunteer group at Lake Ōkareka caring for the environment around Lake Ōkareka for wildlife, plants and people.

Lake Ōkareka Walkway and the Flaxes:

Landcare Ōkareka Steering Committee have been trying to get Rotorua Lakes Council for some time now, to remove many of the large flaxes along the walkway, especially those on the boundary fence side. These were planted by Council under their landscaping planting plan, prior to Landcare Ōkareka being formed. Council did try to remove some flaxes about 4 summers ago. The flaxes are very difficult to keep pruned back from the pathway where they cause trip hazards. The leaves also short out the electric fences on Playne's farm. The flax removal was supposed to happen before Christmas 2019, but the weather conditions were not suitable. So hopefully they will be removed sometime in the future...In the meantime, Landcare Ōkareka volunteers have continued to undertake quite a lot of maintenance work on the Walkway, including brush cutting and grass trimming from Silver beach to the far end, which does not get done by Council contractors, and any other parts of the walkway reserve that need touching up. LO volunteers also carry out weed removal and pick up any rubbish left behind by those using the walkway.

Plantings:

A very successful planting was held in August 2019 as a joint working bee between volunteers from Landcare Ōkareka, Rotorua branch of Forest and Bird and the Rotorua Botanical Society planting an area in the Tikitapu Scenic Reserve, in the reserve more or less opposite the Benn Road turn off.

Two other successful Landcare Ōkareka plantings were held in the Millar Road wetland area. One was along the Millar Road stream bank and the other in the area around the large platform along the new Community Walking Track from Boyes beach. The plants that went in these places were sourced with funding from Landcare Ōkareka's budget with Bay of Plenty Regional Council under the Biodiversity Plan that LO holds. Landcare Ōkareka volunteers, especially Brian Law has spent many hours undertaking pest weed control to get these areas ready for planting.

Landcare Ōkareka Animal Pest Control Work:

The Landcare Ōkareka pest control team continue to work away quietly at checking their traps and maintaining them, recording their catches and the hours spent. Rats, mice, hedgehogs and mustelids are what they are targeting to protect the wetland birdlife around the lake. Landcare Ōkareka holds



Sandra Goodwin
Landcare Ōkareka
slgoodwin.nz@gmail.com

the necessary permissions from DOC to carry out this pest control using kill traps, in the esplanade areas. Some of these volunteers have also focussed on possum trapping as well, at different times throughout the year, with many possums being caught. Excellent work team, as the bird and plant life around Lake Ōkareka are really benefitting from this work. The results of the trapping work have been apparent again this spring and early summer, with many nesting birds and fledged young appearing. Well done, Landcare Ōkareka trapping team members!

Bat Monitoring:

The initial work that Steve Goodin carried out last year with the new acoustic recorders, which are owned by Mike and Sandra Goodwin, showed significant signs of long tail bats in various LŌCations around the Lake Ōkareka catchment. Steve Goodin, assisted at times by Mike Goodwin, are continuing with this bat monitoring work this spring, summer and autumn. They are once again finding some significant long tail bat recordings in some LŌCations around the catchment.

Millar Road Wetland Project:

Landcare Ōkareka is happy to report that Lake Ōkareka Community Association has agreed to pay for a contractor to undertake weed mulching and clearing work in the RDC administered section of the Millar Road wetland adjacent to Boyes beach. This work is going to be done with approval from Tuhourangi Tribal Authority and support from Rotorua District Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Department of Conservation. The plan is to remove the weed plants and trees from this area and to plant the area back in suitable New Zealand plant species. This will be similar to the work that was done by Landcare Ōkareka volunteers in the Lake Ōkareka Scenic Reserve area, around the sewerage pump station at the Loop Road and Summit Road intersection, some years ago.

Landcare Ōkareka Steering Committee members hope to meet very soon with the contractor and get this weed mulching work underway over the coming summer months.

Thank you to everyone who has helped with Landcare Ōkareka volunteer work over this past year of 2019. We are thankful to all of those who assist with this work and support us in these endeavours. Watch out for the sign boards in 2020 that advertise the working bees. Everyone is welcome to come along and lend a hand.

Sandra Goodwin

Sandra Goodwin - Landcare Ōkareka

Lake Events And Closures

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 LŌCation 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 Events & Venues
Rotorua D: 07 351 8654 M: 027 249 8670

TARAWERA ULTRAMARATHON

Crazy athletes to descend on Ōkāreka... again!

For the 12th year in a row, the craziest athletes you'd ever hope to meet will pass through Ōkāreka village. The Tarawera Ultramarathon is on again - this time on Saturday 8th February. Ōkāreka will play host to the 102k and 100 mile (160k) runners.

The first of the 650 102k runners (who will have started in Kawerau at 7am) should arrive in Ōkāreka at about 12:40pm. The final 102k will come trotting through at about 5am on Sunday morning.

Three hundred 100 miler runners have a brisk 4am start in Rotorua and after having traversed 135km (and half of the Bay of Plenty), the lead runner should reach Ōkāreka at around 1pm. The final battler will come through at around 10am on Sunday. You will see many of them pushing their absolute limits as they tackle the biggest physical challenge of their lives.

Runners enter Millar Road via the Western Okataina walkway, descend to the DOC campground and reach Boyes Beach via the Community Track. From there, they run (or crawl) up Steep Street to Ōkāreka Loop Road, turn left and run past the fire station to enter the bush track on the left a few metres later.

The course will be well marked, signposted and safety measures are in place. Please take care when reversing out of driveways and driving.

This is the United Nations of running. There will be more than 40 countries represented. Please make them feel welcome, cheer them on, create signs on your lawn or provide free psychiatric advice.

More info at www.taraweraultra.co.nz



Michelle Herrick

LōCA Editor

runningmichelle77@gmail.com

Letter from the Editor

Happy New Year!

I'm so excited to have this opportunity to get involved with this community which I've fallen in love with. After moving down from Bethells Beach in September my family and I feel so lucky every day to wake up in this beautiful slice of paradise. A little about me... I have four young children, my older two boys go to Lynmore School on the bus and my younger two go to Lake Ōkāreka Preschool which is just amazing. My partner Rich Lang (many of you may know him) has two older girls who go to Mokoia and Lakes High. We are an active family into biking, running, boating and skiing. We've entered the Tarawera Ultra Marathon again this year which is on the 8th February 2020 so if you see us puffing away as we run through Lake Ōkāreka say HI.

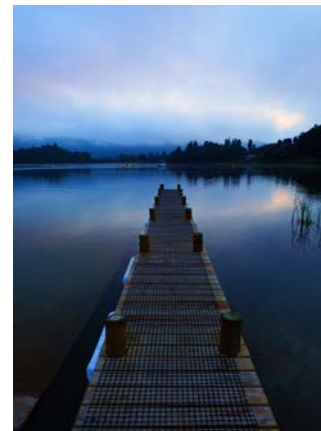


Photo Credit: Simon Watson



Photo Credit: Richard Lang



Photo Credit: Michelle Herrick

Our family have enjoyed the lake so much since we've moved down, I think my boys have turned into fish with wetsuits. Above are a few of my favourite photos taken over the last few weeks I thought they are worth sharing. There is certainly something special about passing that 50 speed sign and easing into lake life. If you see me around say hi, or if you have any ideas or articles of interest for this newsletter please let me know.

Michelle Herrick

Michelle Herrick



Mike Vincent
LōCA - Chairman
mike.vincent@xtra.co.nz

Shinning Cuckoo



Photo Credit: Mike Vincent (Branch Road)

A regular spring and summer visitor to New Zealand is the Shinning Cuckoo (Pipiharauroa) and is regarded as a native bird because it breeds here. The smallest Cuckoo in the world travels down from the Solomon's and East Guinea to use the Grey warbler to hatch its egg and to raise the chick.

Shinning Cuckoo are hard to see with their bronze green backs and barred undersides but their call of kooee kooee kooee kooee - piu piu piu is common around Lake Ōkāreka. They are insectivores and in particular like to feed in Kowhai trees. They will return to islands in Autumn.

Mike Vincent

Mike Vincent - LōCA Chairman

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Classified Advertisements

House Sitter: flexible, reliable and trustworthy. Short or long-term availability. LŌCAL resident and St John paramedic. Contact Kierin Oppatt 027 777 5130.

Justice of the Peace: available LŌCALLY, please ring Janine 07 362 8545 or 021 665 464

Free Home Staging: when you list your property with Ray White Rotorua. For more information phone 07 348 8333.

A Touch of Elegance Beauty and Nails: Phone Vana on 021 074 2070 - Lake Ōkāreka's very own beauty and nail studio, where all treatments are done in a friendly, relaxing and professional setting. Eftpos available.

Looking for one-of-a-kind, affordable, LŌCALLY made gifts? Colourful Bohemian-style textile art handbags, brooches, cushions are

hand made at Ōkāreka by Carol. To view phone 07 3628 878.

Accommodation: Ngamihi Lodge Luxury Bed and Breakfast, 6 Pryce Road Lake Ōkāreka, email: info@ngamihi.co.nz

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

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 07 362 8702.

Ian Bowyer: Lawn mowing, upholstery and home maintenance, phone Ian 027 376 9482 or Vanessa 027 372 9860

Lake Ōkāreka Community Association Annual General Meeting (LŌCA AGM)

Sunday 9th February 2020 10.00 am in the Lake Ōkāreka Community Hall. All property owners and people living at Lake Ōkāreka are welcome to attend.

Nominations for LŌCA Committee. We encourage nominations from the Lake Ōkāreka community for the positions of - Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer or as one of the 10 Committee members.

These nominations are needed 14 days before the AGM – emailed to LŌCA.secretary@gmail.com by Sunday 26 January 2020, as required by the LŌCA Constitution. (see nomination form in "The Newsletter")

Nominees and their nominators must be financial members of LŌCA, at the date of the Annual General Meeting.

If you have a matter that you would like discussed come along and raise it at the AGM. Alternatively, if you are unable to attend the meeting, please contact:

Chairman Mike Vincent
mike.vincent@xtra.co.nz

Secretary Liz Harding
LŌCA.secretary@gmail.com

or any of the Committee members – names and contact details are inside the front cover of "The Newsletter".