



Lake Ōkareka

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Newsletter *Feb 2022*

INSIDE NEWSLETTER

NY DAY YACHT RACE
PRESCHOOL BIKE TRACK
PEST TRAPPING
WALKWAY UPDATE
BOAT RAMP TROUBLE



Lake Ōkāreka

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Newsletter of the Lake Ōkāreka Community Association (Inc.) (LŌCA)
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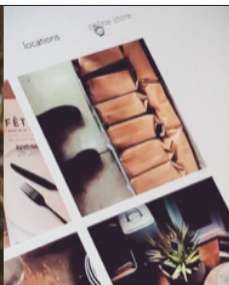
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Kim Lorigan
LōCA - Chair
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Chair's Report Summer 2022

The Lake Ōkāreka Community Committee, has continued to work tirelessly on delivering outcomes that are focused on our long-term strategy -

Support and enhance our environment - Water Quality, Flora and Fauna

Community Enhancement and Safety

Maintain and develop our community amenities

I would like to acknowledge and thank my committee for the hours of voluntary effort that has gone into ensuring we are doing the absolute best to represent the community views, and influence what is needed to achieve our goals and enhance our community and environment.

Without this input many of the achievements of this year would not have happened. There are many others in the community that quietly go about doing work that we do not see, and to you I thank you as you are all adding to the improvement and enhancement of Lake Ōkāreka.

Each of your committee members have families and other full-time commitments, but still find time for meetings, working bees, and other work that is required to achieve our goals. We are reaching out to the community further this year as we need more members to join in and help with this work – please give this some consideration and step forward if you feel you could help.

Year summary to September 2021

Water Quality

The dashboard provided by the BOPRC link has been significantly useful for the up-to-date data on the water quality – and we should all be pleased to see that the work has been finished on the outlet, data monitoring continues, and we have had a successful spray programme this year, resulting in an almost complete eradication of noxious weeds in the lake. We are looking to work further with BOPRC this year to further develop the long-term plan for the lake quality, that can hopefully be completed this year. What we have proven is that consistent and conscious effort can result in superior quality water – but it must be continually monitored and worked on.

Catfish

Catfish have so far remained absent from our water – this is extremely important, and we are grateful to the Te Arawa team for their work on checking lake users with this programme. DNA testing continues regularly to ensure there are no traces, which will be important to continue over the coming years.

Plant Pests

We had identified Climbing Spindle berry as a key target for last year, however missed several opportunities to target at the right time of the year, due to Covid-19 interruptions and resource, however we will continue to work with property owners who have this on their land and make sure that in the Autumn we get areas identified so that we can target accordingly.

Cherry Trees

Unwanted cherry trees came up for us during the year, and we have had several discussions with concerned community members on how to deal with this. Some trees are ideal for bird feeding in the spring, others are not so useful. To start, we have identified with RLC the roadside cherry trees that are either hanging over roads, or on RLC road edges to get these cut out and poisoned. This is the start; however, we are hoping that a further education process on identifying these prolific trees in gardens will give us the chance to reduce them and provide more space in areas where native bush is better suited. If you have any questions or would like to have these looked at in your garden, please let us know.

Pest Control

The Backyard Trapping programme run by Tim Bell this year, continues to be a particularly important part of the overall pest strategy. You will have seen the work by Tim and his team, we have over 67 traps out in the community and have more to provide if you are needing one in your garden.

Tim is willing to take on more volunteers, provide training and support for any new community members keen to get involved. Many of you will be doing your own work as well, and this is vital. Tim records the catch numbers on an app, and this is useful not just for us but for Pest Free NZ, who monitor our work, and help with funding when we need more traps and support with pest control.

A major piece of work is underway that is developing a long-term pest management plan for our catchment. At present in draft form, awaiting some mapping and consultation with effected parties including DOC, Iwi and supporting networks. The value of this will be an ongoing and consistent pest control plan for our wider area, which will help to eliminate wallaby's, possums, rats, feral cats, and other vermin not wanted in our bushland. More information to follow on this as it develops but as you well know, these things take hours of work. The formulation of the plan will enable future committees and volunteer groups can work together on a goal that is agreed today. There are many groups in NZ undertaking similar work, and I know this is something that has been asked for - it is now time to get active on the work. The Lake Ōkāreka area is home to a large array of native birds and bats that need protecting.

This plan has a catchment wide approach with some large goals and will require the support of



the community to get behind and to implement. It will be long term, and it needs ensure that future generations will enjoy a protected bushland and enhanced native bush surroundings – if we start now!

Community Contribution

This year we contributed to the Pre-school by providing them \$1500 for use as they needed it. Covid-19 again provided challenges for gatherings such as the Christmas event, but this funding has helped them to purchase needed items. We are looking for this year at how we can help with some upgrading of the Community Hall facilities along with RLC – as this hall is a community asset – and it is time for a review on this.

Our community day was outstanding and a great gathering of many young and old residents and families. The community came together to share a wonderful event, managed, and organised by Andrew Witters. His expertise is outstanding in event organizing, and he makes it all so easy – but a big thanks to him and his team for pulling this together. The BBQ was amazing, (thanks to Colin for the Venison patties!) through rain and sunshine we managed to feed kids and adults, with a bit of music and lots of laughter – a momentous event!

This was followed by a fireworks extravaganza!! A huge thank you to our one and only, expert fireworks magician Dennis Falconer – a spectacular display, and very memorable. It was decided to do this as an effort to help our community lift its spirits. And that it did. It was possible due to a massive effort from Dennis and his team, plus community donations that gave the cash to make it possible – and what a special event it was. One of very few in NZ, given gathering restrictions at this time.

Camps

Continued travel restrictions have certainly had an impact on our visitors to our camps this year. Covid-19 lockdowns and overseas entry to NZ have been significant for us as well as Rotorua. Income was down 60% on 2020, expenses continue of course and were slightly up, so overall a change in what we end up with to fund our objectives. We continue to meet our requirements with



DOC and RLC in our management agreements, as required, and we are vigilant at making sure both camps are presented well for visitors and locals

There have been a variety of guests, and some that have caused our team significant concern and have taken a lot of time. A huge thanks to Diane and Cliff Graham for their expertise and understanding of how to

manage this – along with RLC, DOC authorities, and the Police the process of unwelcomed guests being removed was new to us, but all part of what we need to manage with Covid-19 rules and Vaccination requirements set by NZ laws.

Our thanks also must go to the Fire service – who attended illegally lit fires at the camp, on several occasions who also provided a useful authority to help campers understand that fires are not permitted in our camps!

Most of the guests that stay are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to be able to stay – and have paid willingly, cleaned up their rubbish, and had an enjoyable stay. Unfortunately, as we know, there are some that do not, including our day visitors. This causes a considerable amount of extra work and is not always enjoyable work, often quite controversial.



Well done to the teams that have worked on the camps this year, they include the collection team as above (with camp collectors, Diane, and Cliff) and the maintenance team managed by Gregg Brown.

Maintenance on the Boyes Beach walkway to DOC camp is ongoing and still costly. We remain committed to ensuring this is well maintained for the use of all, so a cost that is worthwhile. We engage contract workers for this, to obtain a high standard walkway.

Speeding

Speeding ‘hoon’ vehicles continued to get our attention, not only at the camps but on our local roads. Thankfully, campers and community were willing to help report these to the 105 number, supported by the RLC access to the camera footage, and the Police had useful information to do their work.

We continue to canvas for the reduction of the speed limit here in the village, and this work will not stop. It is not entirely going to stop the issue of vehicles speeding but it might help create a habit for locals. Reporting the incidents to authorities is our next best tool, that we must use. Do not be afraid to call the Police or 105 and share what you see. Remember to advise the authority you call that there are cameras at the entry to the village, and any other information you have, to help them as much as possible.

Boat Ramp

Again unruly behavior at the boat ramp, this year has seen an escalating problem, but we are assured by the Police they are aware of what has happened. Their guidance is the same, and we must report all incidents to the Police, the 105# or Rotorua Lakes Council. The more reporting in we provide the better chance we have of helping them deal with the problem.

Te Arawa have provided supporting teams looking at the boat users and ensuring that boats have been cleaned and are not carrying catfish/pest plants between lakes. A vital job that we must continue with to ensure our water quality is maintained at the highest level we can influence.

We will continue to lobby for a change in the boat ramp itself, given the difficulty many users have had launching their boats, particularly as the water levels reduce. A massive task as we battle with what should have been a much different design, but our ideas were ignored – and now we have a bigger problem. This includes the parking at the boat ramp area. We will keep you update on this

matter.

Our thanks to the Harbour Master and his team for supporting us on the lake this summer, as we have seen exceptional high visitor numbers on the lake. Some behavior has not been ideal, but the BOPRC Harbour Master team have been very reactive to this and their presence on the lake clearly makes a difference.



Boardwalk to the outlet

This is due for some work and as we have been advised this is due to be carried out in 2023.

Geese

We have had a professional in shooting team in this last year to help reduce the numbers, and while we have made some reductions, it will be an ongoing requirement to keep up this practice to keep numbers low. They continue to be a pest on the Playnes farm and to our boardwalk users, and thanks to RLC and the team engaged to do this work we are making some progress on this matter.

Dabchick

Numbers down due to breeding. We need a balance between our environment and lake use – we are looking at ways to make the community more aware of these precious creatures, and we will update you with more of a plan soon. DOC and BOPRC, are keen to make sure breeding platforms are protected where they can be – if you are aware of any please let us know. It is hoped that with more information the public can also be responsible for their breeding success.

Cameras

RLC and BOPRC are to be congratulated at getting in our camera at the boat ramp, the week before Christmas. Covid-19 again gave us some challenges with this, but its already provided authorities with useful information for that area. Well done everyone involved.

AED

An extra unit is being prepared for Boyes beach, one is at the Fire station, and we now have four available. The Fire service is continuing their excellent work and will be providing further AED training this year. We took the opportunity to get our committee trained this year – a wonderful experience for us all, and some surprises in just what must happen in an emergency. I encourage you all to get trained this year, and/or revise your skills as we have a good spread of equipment to help our community and it is a skill you can use anywhere.

Walkway Project

We advised the community we would update you on this project. Due to the limitations of the last year, progress has been slow and frustrating. Currently we are at the stage of holding a consent to begin the work on the walkway, pending a few pieces that we believe are achievable.

This is the point where we are required to update the community and share with you what is on the table. The map and information is available on the website, Facebook and has been shared on emails to members. The proposed project is consented to run from the DOC Camp to the outlet. It will be a single walking track that will be required to be implemented, managed and maintained by LOCA. The current cost of the projected is estimated to be close to \$200,000 (this includes, the making of the track, the engineering cost and the cost of a bridge). It is estimated the annual maintenance cost will be between \$20-\$30k. The track will also require LOCA members to help oversee the build and ensure it is well maintained, on the DOC land.

For this committee this is a significant project to undertake and be responsible for – maintenance, cost, future changes, liability and community impact are all issues to be considered.

Conclusion

Thanks again to the team, this year's effort has been very trying with changing circumstances for many. Please take the time to contribute and contemplate more involvement in your community by joining us on the committee, providing feedback or perhaps offer some support, even if you can't be on the committee – we can facilitate that! We need your help to get all of the work started, continued and maintained.

May 2022 be momentous, and we continue that fabulous community support of each other as this world changes again.

Kim

Kim Lorigan
Chair LOCA



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

Lake Ōkāreka Volunteer Rural Fire

Following weeks of hot, dry weather, a prohibited fire season is now in force as per the notification below.

The Bay of Plenty Fire District including South Waikato has moved to a prohibited fire season. The prohibited fire season came into effect from Tuesday, 25 January 2022.

This means everyone in the Bay of Plenty can no longer light an open-air fire. All fire permits previously granted will be suspended, and new permits will not be issued while the ban is in place. For more information go to www.checkitsalright.nz

Please call in any smoke you observe in the neighbourhood and surrounding area. Better to err on the side of caution than lose property or some of our native bush and wildlife. Please also continue to be aware of fire and permit restrictions throughout the fire season.

Various brigade members have recently been attending formal training courses including the completion of crew leader requirements for two of the brigade's younger members. Congratulations Leah and Thomas! We also recently hosted a portable pump course at the Lake Ōkāreka station which was well attended by fire fighters from across Region 2 (Ngā Tai ki te Puku, Central North Island) and run by three trainers from the National Training Centre who provided positive feedback on the Lake Ōkāreka station facilities.

A recent scrub fire in Taupō was also added to our 'to do list' with four members from Ōkāreka attending on what was a very hot day. The contribution of the crew was acknowledged and commended by the other brigades involved. Thank you to Leah, Thomas, Amber and Lana for volunteering their Sunday to attend this incident.

With the summer months and holiday season still in full swing, it may pay to be aware when cresting the hill coming into Ōkāreka from the Blue Lake that there are a lot more walkers, runners and cyclists on the road verge. Unfortunately, there also seems to be more cars in the areas doing burnouts and driving at speed through the village and surrounding roads.



Scrub fire at Taupō: Thomas Firth (left) and Lana Muldoon

A special thank you to those members of the community who have offered to mow the lawns and weed the gardens around the station. This help is greatly appreciated!

With February just around the corner, universities will soon be starting up again and we will be losing a number of our members from the area during semester time. If you live locally and haven't gotten around to joining the brigade, then now is the perfect opportunity to assist with maintaining brigade numbers throughout the year. Full training and PPE are provided. Please drop by the station on a Wednesday evening at 7:30pm or give me a call on 021 890 508. You can also visit our website for more information: <http://www.Ōkārekaruralfire.co.nz/>

Phil

Phil Muldoon
Chief Fire Officer

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Lake Events And Closures

Partial or full Lake closures for events are now managed by Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group. They are an overarching team responsible for management of the Rotorua Te Arawa lakes. They are made up of elected representatives from Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Te Arawa Lakes Trust and Rotorua Lakes Council, with support from the Ministry for the Environment.

There is a form on their website to complete if an event requires a full or partial lake closure. <https://www.rotorualakes.co.nz/full-or-partial-lake-closure-form>

Also on the page is reference to the Bay of Plenty Regional Navigation Safety Bylaw.

It is important that you have supplied all of the required information BEFORE submitting the application. There is a 'pre-submit checklist' accompanying the electronic form.

Applications must be submitted no later than four weeks prior to the event date or the application may be refused.

If you have any questions about the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Program email rotorualakes@boprc.govt.nz

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Frances Blakely
Forest & Bird
jandfblakely@gmail.com

Tikitapu Pest Control Project

2021 was a difficult year for planning working bees to comply with Covid 19 regulations, in particular the required spacing. This resulted in some work only being carried out by experienced volunteers who were able to work on their own. Our apologies to those of you who were not able to be involved as much as you may have wished to be, and especially to our newest volunteers, some of whom never got the opportunity to come out. We hope for a return to normal this year, and to again be able to send people up in groups, and have refreshments and time for a chat afterwards.

Last year the Tikitapu project took part in a trial of the new product, Double Tap, which is a combination of both Diphacinone and Cholecalciferol, toxins which have been used in Tikitapu on their own, in past years. Double Tap was intended to target both marsupials and rodents with the one bait. Due to it being a trial, the plan for Tikitapu was to do the normal monitoring for rodents (tracking cards) and marsupials (wax tags) prior to any bait laying. Two weeks after the stations were cleared of any remaining Double Tap, the monitoring was repeated. As these results were not satisfactory Feratox® strikers (cyanide) were used to target marsupials in particular. The strikers were either placed in the Romark bait stations or nailed to trees. Wallabies have previously preferred the strikers nailed to trees rather than going to a bait station. This was again followed by monitoring a couple of weeks after any remaining Feratox(R) was removed.

We now have the results from the monitoring to share with you.

Rats	pre-baiting = 28%	post Double Tap = 16%	post Feratox® = 34%
Marsupials	pre-baiting = 40%	post Double Tap = 48%	post Feratox® = 34%
Kills found from Feratox®	Possums = 34	Wallabies = 5	

The review of the results with Forest and Bird, DoC and BoPRC will not be finalised until early February. Then the programme for 2022 will be decided, including the toxins to be used.

This is a disappointing result after everyone's efforts to get the numbers down, including the volunteers doing the trapping all year, around the perimeter. However, on the bright side, the mistletoe continues to flourish and there are many reports of beautiful bird song and friendly robins hopping around. So, the prime reason for this programme, which is the protection of the 2 rare mistletoes, is being achieved.

Trapping

The traps (fifty Sentinel and fifty DOC 200) that are deployed around the perimeter of the managed area were checked twice monthly throughout the year by a small team of volunteers. Sixty-seven

separate visits to check traps were made in 2021. On 4th July 2021 a plank was positioned under each sentinel trap to provide a runway for possums with a resulting marked increase in possum catches.

Catches for the year were-

Rats 202,
Possums 96+3 Joeys,
Stoats 3,
Mice 34
Hedgehogs 4

Thank very much to all those who were involved last year, or had offered to be. This project depends on our wonderful volunteers. We hope to see you back this year.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy 2022.

Frances

Frances Blakely
Ph 362 8480



Possum in Sentinel trap with running board

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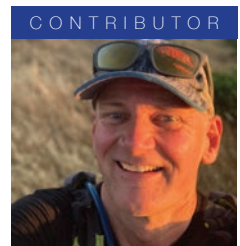
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What's the best way or what's the best number to contact Police on?

It is important when members of the community see something, that they obtain as much detail as possible. Including date, time and accurate location. If at all possible and you are able to do so safely, photographs or videos of the offending are invaluable.

But you must remember, your safety is paramount.



Call 111 if

- There is a fire of any sort
- You need an ambulance because someone is seriously hurt
- Someone is breaking into your house right now
- There is a car accident where people might be hurt, or cars are blocking the road
- Someone has been assaulted and the offender is still there
- You are afraid for your safety and or for those around you
- You need an emergency Police response

When to use 105

We encourage you to make a report online at 105.police.govt.nz, but you can also call us 24/7 on 105. Use 105 to report things like:

- Your car or bike has been stolen
- Someone has vandalised your wall
- You've lost your wallet or phone, or your handbag was stolen at the library
- Someone broke into your car and might have taken something
- You're a retailer and someone has shoplifted or driven off without paying for gas.
- You suspect a scam or drug dealing
- Your house has been burgled (if you think the burglar may still be in your home, or running down the street, do not go inside - contact Police immediately by calling 111)

It's a dog's life at Lake Ōkāreka

My name is Poppy and I'm sure many people around Ōkāreka know me! I have my own personal 'walking companion' who also enjoys the outdoors and together for at least an hour each day we find routes to explore.

My companion believes our walks need to be stimulating and that they should incorporate, such things as socialising with other dogs and people. I enjoy the sniffing and finding out about the dogs and what they have been up to. Then there is the fun/mental exercises along the way and if I get those right (which I always do), I get a reward.

Variety is the spice of our outings and at least once a week we walk up through the bush to Blue Lake and walk along sections of it where we come across like minded people and dogs. We're able to meet our regulars on trips to the Ōkāreka beaches such as the golden Lab who loves to bury her sticks, the Schnauzer who swims and dives for rocks and the Border Collie who lies down when he sees me – the joys of being top dog – but of course, I don't let that go to my head! We get to meet any new dogs who have recently arrived in Ōkāreka. Most are respectful of my seniority when asking would I like to play. Others just want their ball thrown. Occasionally we are accompanied by the "free spirit of Ōkāreka" as we call him who loves tagging onto people's walks and then haring off on his own adventures. Ōkāreka is also handy for a quick car trip to the Redwoods dog park. I think we'd all agree Lake Ōkāreka is a dog's life for us! (Thanks to my companion for transcribing the above)



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Mitch Collins

LOCA - Secretary

loca.secretary@gmail.com

Update on the LOCA Lake Walkway

Ka mua, Ka muri. Walking backwards into the future. This whakatauki tells that we should always look to our past to inform our future. When I first took on the next stage in our community project to consent and construct a walking track around Lake Ōkāreka, I came at it with years of experience in consenting large civil infrastructure projects, working with tāngata whenua and only one year living in the community.

What an experience it has been! Not only have I been given a crash course in community history (and politics), but I have bush bashed several times around the lake and had a few cups of tea. With the project I have grown in connection to the area. I have learned through engagement the deep connection of Tūhourangi to the land, how to properly spell (and hence pronounce) Ōkāreka, their urupa and ancestors on the ridge and support longer term ambitions within their rohe - Ngā mihi nunui ki ngā Tūhourangi.

I have learned of the Playnes family who have worked the land for generations and generously gifted large lakeside areas for the enjoyment of all - some of those agreements lost, but not forgotten - Many thanks to Fenella, Richard and the Playnes family.

If I stay around on the project any longer, I might even get to see the gun that Paddy uses to shoot wallabies on his farm!

I have learned that this project will take time, it has taken over 40 years to get this far and we can't be too impatient. I'm not sure if you've had the chance to read the full 92 pages of consent application on the website - it is a meal and it took a bit more time writing it. <http://www.lakeŌkāreka.org/eastern-walkway.html>

In all, while it has sometimes been one step forward and two steps back, the project has been very rewarding in shared experience and the support of many keen locals. Still more work to do with DoC, landowners and iwi before we get started. Thank you all,

Mitch

Mitch Collins

Secretary - Lake Ōkāreka Community Association



FAQ's about the LOCA Lake Walkway

Will I see the walkway from the settlement?

The entire walkway length will be under canopy about one third to a half of the way up the eastern slope without lakeside access until the outlet. It will be of lower profile than the existing tracks and avoid tree removal where possible. As the canopy will not be changed, it is not expected that the walkway will be visible.

Will it generate erosion and slips?

Track construction will involve a "Construction Management Plan" with methods to avoid any overlaid discharge of solids. The design will incorporate features such as bridges, culverts, retaining and clean water diversions as appropriate. Designing a track well first time will reduce future maintenance costs and any erosion.

Why do we need to build a bridge?

A crossing used to exist over the outlet. However, this has been removed by Bay of Plenty Regional Council in response to lake flooding events. LÖCA approached Council to ask for assistance with a new crossing yet their project went over budget. As such, a resource consent is not required for this bridge. A pole bridge of 8m span has been costed between \$20k to \$30k including design and building consent. Materials and labour we will aim to gain local support for.

Who owns the land?

Department of Conservation manage the majority of the track in the Lake Ōkareka Scenic Reserve and the rest of the trail to the south traverses the Playne Family Farm - who have granted permission for this track by way of long-term licence.

Wasn't there a different route earlier?

Yes. A past proposal was to build a hiking trail on the ridgeline. The LÖCA committee since has unanimously accepted the new design as it is of easier grade and less distance (making it more family friendly), it holds resource consent, has



affected party approval and more opportunity for future recreational access.

What do mana whenua think?

Support from both Tuhourangi and Raukawa were gained in the consent process. With Tuhourangi as mana whenua, a Cultural Impact Assessment was undertaken which both helped with the understanding of the project, historic context and identified features on the ridgeline to avoid - including the site of an urupa. We will continue to involve mana whenua in the future.

Does the track have a name?

Not yet. It is simply known as the Eastern Walkway for now due to aspect. The entire length could be named rather than just this section.

How much will it cost?

Initial estimates for the track alone were about \$100,000. It is anticipated to be higher given inflation, appointing a project manager and some additional design work, including a bridge over the outlet. DoC have provided design and costings for a similar bridge engineered and

built at \$30,000. Most costs to date have kindly been covered either pro-bono or by the Walking Access Commission Enhanced Access Grant, with some community contribution from operation of the campgrounds.

Who pays?

Funding streams are currently being investigated. LÖCA has funds earned via the campground and allocated to works in the DoC Reserve and environs - this is included in that scope. We can apply to the various charitable trusts for funding for the capital of the project. However, they will require a holistic picture of our funding. More recently, the campground has required significant investment, in excess of income. This has been related to COVID shortfall in tourism. It is anticipated that all future DoC Reserve maintenance costs will be covered by campground income.

How many people will it employ?

Construction is anticipated to take a project manager and 3 staff approximately 12 weeks to complete. Rotorua already has some of the world's best trail builders experienced in local conditions.

What are the effects on the bush?

Track construction will require the disturbance of soil and removal of vegetation. With minimal tree removal proposed in forming the track, the biggest effects will be the incursion of pests along a track. The existing area is already prone to wallaby browsing and having better access will help in better controlling populations. On the balance, the track will be better for managing these pests.

To mitigate and plant pest incursion, equipment will be steam cleaned prior to arrival and pest management in the form of baiting and trapping will help manage populations.

Will there be more parking?

No further parking is currently planned with users directed to existing facilities - i.e. Boyes Beach, DoC Campground and Acacia Rd. With a loop track, parking can be more distributed among existing lake assets.



Will there be more visitors?

There will be more visitors that enjoy walking longer distances of approx. 10-11km. Lake Ōkāreka currently receives a large volume of summer visitors to the lake as a recreation attraction. This is unlikely to change the nature of those visitors, nor their numbers. Think about the type of people who like to take long walks and their general behaviour.

How will this help the community?

More recreational access - particularly middle distance and family friendly, increase the desirability for campers to use the available facilities. More fee paying campers generate more revenue for community pest management projects and reserve activities. It is also hoped that such guests and more eyes will help reduce some issues of vandalism and antisocial behaviour.

Who are you working with?

So far, we have worked with affected parties, landowners (including DoC) and mana whenua in forming the track design and permissions, as well as both Rotorua Lakes Council and Bay of Plenty Regional. Specialist ecologists, track builders and cultural impacts assessors have been engaged.

Any questions, of course, please send through to loca.secretary@gmail.com



CONTRIBUTORS



Leslie, Davina & Lucy
Preschool Teachers
Phone 07-362 8606

Lake Ōkareka Preschool News

Ngā mihi o te tau hou Happy new year

At the end of last term, we farewelled Patrick Ward and Quinn Herbert both graduating to school. A big thank you to whānau, Sharon & Jason, Julie & Ebon for your continued support over many years. Our first week back we will farewell Naoko Tsunokawa graduating to school again a big thank you to Satoko and Moto for your continued support. Happy school days to you all.

We have new families and children joining Preschool, welcome to Milli Wilkinson with mum Brydie and dad William, Arthur Harvey with Nazomi & Steven, Henry McGlashen with Julie & Hamish, Lochie Fraser with Samantha & James, Emme McCormick joining big brother George, Ruby Witters joining big sister Ava and welcome back to Ollie Mounter with Jess & Joshua.



Nativity Show



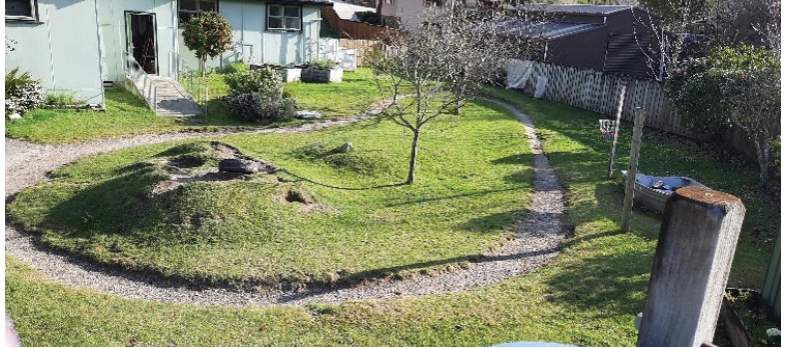
Nativity Show

A BIG thank you to, George and dad Connor McCormick, for the enormous work and upgrade to our bike track. The grass was slowly taking over the track and now we have a wider more accessible track with a lovely layer of pumice. I think we are going to have lots of fun.

Leslie, Davina and Lucy

Teaching Team Leslie, Davina and Lucy

New pump bike track!



Before



During



After

Lakes Specialist – Jenny Donne



Jenny Donne
Lakes Consultant

B: 07 349 5356
M: 027 385 0566
E: jenny.donne@bayleys.co.nz

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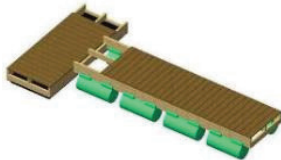
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Harbourmaster
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Maritime Patrol Teams on Ōkāreka

It's been a busy six months for our Maritime patrol teams on our local lakes. As well as education it's also been about maintenance on Lake Ōkāreka. It's surprising how many navigational aids shift or break off their anchor point due to weather and wear and tear and the amount of maintenance involved. This includes everything from 5 knot buoys to waterski and static markers.

Like all craft, water skiing vessels (towing vessels) are expected to stay 200m from the shoreline. Our patrols have noticed numerous vessels towing inside 200m on the nor'eastern shoreline as this can be calmer waters over the summer months. While every effort has been made to educate these boaties, more recently this behavior is being breached and repeat offenders are now being infringed \$200.

*Go online to check out
the rules with Rollie!*
www.boprc.govt.nz/know-the-rules



Some things to remember

In the Bay of Plenty, lifejackets must be worn at all times unless the skipper has assessed the risks and advised it's safe to remove them. Crotch straps are essential for children's lifejackets.

Things to consider:

- the activity – fishing? watersports? kayaking?
- the distance from shore you intend to go
- the conditions you are likely to encounter

Your boat must not exceed 5 knots:

- within 200m of the shore, a structure or dive flag; and
- within 50m of another boat, raft or person in the water.
- if anyone has any part of their body over the edge of a power boat.

As boats get more powerful, wake is increasingly becoming an issue. A wake can throw people off-balance, damage other vessels and structures, and erode the shoreline. Always consider the effect your wake may have.

If you're towing someone behind your boat, whether they're on skis, a wakeboard or biscuit, they must wear a lifejacket and only ski between sunrise and sunset. Always have an observer who is aged 10 year or over.

New vessel

Look out for our new patrol boat Eke Ngaru. The vessel was recently blessed and is a welcome addition to our fleet. The Naiad is 5.8m and has been specifically designed with patrolling in mind. It features any easy access cabin, extra storage space and sun protection.

Matt

Matt Hunt
Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana



New Years Day Yacht Race 2022

CONTRIBUTOR



Christine Caughey
christine.caughey@gmail.com

Dr Ron Caughey Memorial Yacht Race

This long-established community event took place for its 46th year from Boyes Beach. More yachts entered than in recent years, with the usual excitement and expectation of sailors and family onlookers alike.

New Year's Day was hot and glorious. At 1.30pm a flotilla of sails arrived at the beach, creating a colourful spectacle. With a Mark Foy handicapped start, the first to set off was the P Class followed by the Sunbird. Fast, and handicapped to start last, were the Hobie 16s.



Awaiting the Mark Foy start from the Boyes Beach

Early starters got a reasonable lead, but the light winds lightened up even further. Skill became paramount. How to read the conditions of the lake, the local topography and anticipating how to capture the light airs funneling down the valleys, became the order of the day.

Dan O'Connor in his Laser 2 was the Cup winner. A skilled sailor, Dan rounded the course in 1 hour 55 minutes – Dan is married to Ron Caughey's granddaughter, Kate.

Second place getter was Gary Vogels in his Laser. Gary, also a skilled sailor has been an entrant in many New Year's Day races at the lake over the decades.



Holding the race trophy are Dan O'Connor first place getter and Hugo Smith, winner of the Bob van Boven Cup for sportsmanship, Hugo's P Class can be seen behind.

It was Hugo Smith in his P Class, that he had owned since Christmas, who sailed an exceptional race placing 8th. Hugo, a second-generation race entrant, was on the water for almost three hours, so light were the winds. He demonstrated real determination! He was awarded the Bob van Boven Cup for good sportsmanship, presented by Bob's son, George.

Big thanks to Michael Smith and Dennis Goodwin for laying and retrieving the course buoys, to Sandra and Mike Goodwin and Dennis Goodwin for their role on the lake in the safety boats.

A happy day was had by all.

Christine

Christine Caughey

Third place was awarded to Richard Caughley and son, Arthur sailing a Hobie 16. Richard has been a long-standing entrant over the decades but has not always sailed with the "magic" of his son as crew. Arthur is the grandson of Fenella Playne.

Fourth and fifth places were awarded to Michael Smith in a Hobie 16 and Harry Lusk in a Laser, both former first place winners.

Sixth and seventh places were awarded to Lynda and Mikayla Olsen in a Laser and to Martin Caughey and Christine Wallis in a Farr 600.

Ninth place went to Olivia van Boven and Gordon Wallace in a Hartley 16.

A few entrants sailed a valiant race and did not finish the course due to poor wind conditions. Their real tenacity deserves mention - and there was some fun to be had too!



Dedicated Okāreka sailors - Michael Smith with his daughters and grandchildren. Front is daughter Michelle Wright, Madeline Wright, Mikayla Olson, daughter Lynda Olson, daughter Sharon Smith, Izack Olson, Hayden Wright, Jonty Olson, Dennis Goodwin friend, and Michael Smith.

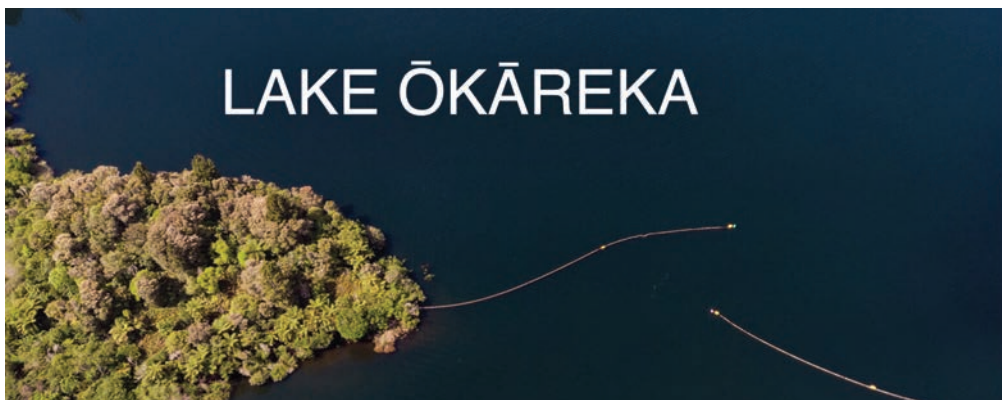


Rich Lang
LŌCA - Member
Serving Police Officer
0274 599 018

Happy new year to you all!

I wanted to start this February 2022 edition with a 'thanks'. There have numerous proactive reports from residents, we don't know what we don't know, so letting the correct authorities know is imperative.

I am a committed resident of Okareka and a Police officer of 25 years. Although I'm relatively new to this area, along with many of you, I too have noticed a change in the behaviour of our visitors this summer.



We have worked tirelessly with the issues you and the LOCA Committee share.

Anti-social behaviour at the DOC Camp and boat ramp

Drivers, speeding and burnouts

Increased gang presence

Lack of adherence to boating rules and breaches of the 5 knot rules etc

There have been a number of measures taken to address these issues.

Although we love our village and we cherish the beauty and remoteness it offers, we do have open reserves and public roads. What none of us want is anti-social behaviours and any potential harm to our residents.

This is not an issue for any one government body, its an issue for all of us. We don't have to put up with any illegal or anti-social behaviours, the trick is how do we combat it?

We need to report, report and report.

If property or people are in immediate danger, call 111, other options for reporting include:

Crime stoppers www.crimestoppers-nz
Police reporting www.police.govt.nz
***555** www.police.govt.nz
Harbourmaster www.boprc.govt.nz

Duty Harbourmaster **0800 5 KNOTS**
24/7 Pollution Hotline **0800 884 883**
Maritime NZ **0508 222 433**

What is the best information you can provide you ask? Any of these key factors you can obtain safely.

Day, date, time
Describe the activity
Location, road beach wherever
Describe the person, appearance
Describe vehicle or vessel, colour, model

Registration number
Boat description
See what vehicle the person got into
Direction of travel, date and time
If you can include any photos and videos

The paramount consideration in all of this is your safety, do not confront people aggressively, if you are confident enough you can enter into a discussion, but do not get into any verbal or physical confrontation. Stand back and record what you can or get your phone out and take photos or videos, close enough to obtain the detail required but not too close you put yourself in harm's way!

There are occasions where the cameras and your calls have been acted on and been used to identify persons and vehicles.

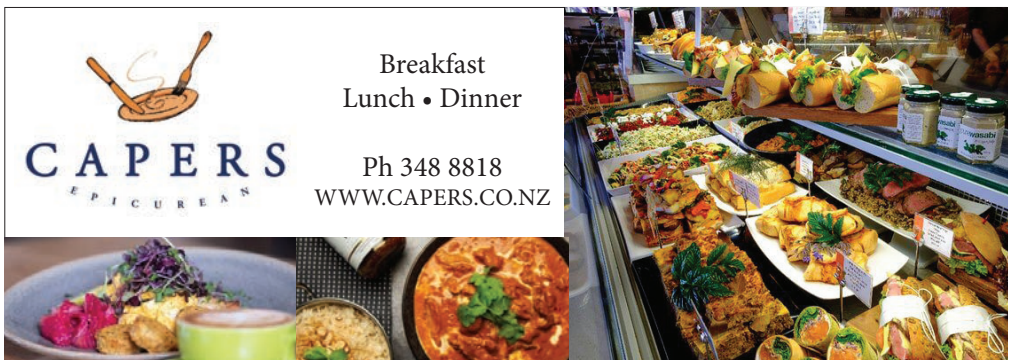
You may or may not be aware, but the cameras mounted in our area are monitored by both Police and council staff and are used regularly to gain important corroboration to the information provided by you, the residents of this area. Don't ever think they are not used or valuable. The difficulty is, it cannot always be shared.

So in summary, do not be afraid to report. There are many options available to do this. Do what suits you, take as much or a little action as you are comfortable with BUT the ultimate is keep yourself safe, do not put yourself in harm's way and look after our slice of paradise!

Wishing you a warm and happy summer 2022

Rich

Rich Lang





Sandra Goodwin

Landcare Ōkareka

slgoodwin.nz@gmail.com

Landcare Ōkareka Summer 2022

Landcare Ōkareka volunteers have continued with all of the various projects in the settlement and catchment over spring of 2021 and into summer 2022. Many volunteers have wasp traps in their gardens, which did a great job taking out queen wasps back in the spring, and are now trapping wasps through summer and autumn. We still have Ditrac rat bait available for those with rat bait stations. Over 3000 New Zealand plants went into various reserves, mainly the Millar Road wetland area. Plants came from Tipu Wai Ora and Scion (thanks to Gregg Brown), Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Department of Conservation and from some of Landcare Ōkareka volunteers own efforts growing on seeds, cuttings and seedlings from their gardens. Thank you to everyone for their contributions – and to all of the volunteers who helped with plantings, during some difficult times dealing with Covid-19 regulations. We got there and no one caught Covid-19!

Millar Road / Boyes beach wetland:

Again, as per last year, throughout the spring, summer and soon to be autumn months some Landcare Ōkareka volunteers have undertaken hours of weed pest removal amongst the plantings from 2020 and 2021, to keep the new plants growing well. Volunteers have gone on with more strategic willow control work in the wetland.



Lake Ōkareka Volunteer Fire Brigade members laying out equipment to practice using fire hoses, while watering plants.

We are finding fantastic quantities of desirable vegetation underneath the canopy of the willows. So willow removal is not totally blanketed, to allow what is underneath to become gradually accustomed to brighter sunlight from overhead. Further site preparation work is also happening, getting areas ready for planting this coming winter in area.

Because it has been so hot and dry we were a bit worried about the new plantings showing that they were becoming quite drought stressed. We were very pleased when Fire Chief Phillip Muldoon agreed that the Lake Ōkāreka Volunteer Fire Brigade could water the plants while having water hosing practice. A huge thank you to Phil and his team for organising this, very much appreciated. A win-win for both groups! Love it when a plan comes together!

Landcare Ōkāreka hopes to make a start on the bamboo removal project in the wetland area adjacent to the roadway into Te Waiariki Pura Trust's recreation shed, this summer or autumn. The bamboo just loves the heat and continues to spread. This project will require some contractors and machinery and funding to carry out. We are hopeful we can get this organised. It might be that we will break the area into 2 parts in order to get this work carried out successfully.



Bamboo to be removed in the Boyes beach reserve.

The Millar Road wetland area is scheduled for another visit from Landcare Research scientists this summer under the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's regional wetland monitoring programme. Landcare Ōkāreka volunteers hope to be involved with assisting these scientists with locating the monitoring sites and carrying out their work.

Animal Pest Trapping:

The team of Landcare Ōkāreka volunteers continued to check and re-bait the traps along the various trapping lines around the edge of Lake Ōkāreka and in the Millar Road wetlands. We are deploying Sentinel traps for possums in some parts. As per usual we ask parents and children to take a responsible attitude towards traps if you should notice them.



Landcare Research scientist taking soil sample from one of the research plots in Millar Road wetland area, 15 March 2017



A stoat trapped in one of the DOC 200 box traps. Stoats are predators of wetland birds, their eggs, and chicks. Photo by Mike Goodwin

Do not touch or poke anything in to the traps. They are there for a purpose. And a huge thank you to everyone who is helping with this project.

Long Tailed Bat Monitoring:

This project has continued over the past spring, and is ongoing now into summer and then autumn months, with monitors being deployed in a number of suitable locations within the catchment. Some of these have been on private land and we thank those land owners who have been so supportive of this monitoring work. Following many hours of analysis of last year's recordings by local volunteers, reports have been prepared and presented to DOC along with the data for the National Bat Recovery data base. Long tailed bats continue to have a significant presence in places at times, within the Lake Ōkāreka catchment.

Lakes 380 Project: www.lakes380.com

A team of scientists from Cawthron Institute, part of the "Lakes 380 Our lakes' health past, present, future" project came to Lake Ōkāreka last summer to collect lake bed core samples to undertake research about Lake Ōkāreka's catchment history. A report is currently being written up about the findings.



The Lakes 380 team deploying the lake bottom core sampling machine, Lake Ōkāreka, Feb 2021. Photo by Mike Goodwin



The Lakes 380 team recovering the 6m lake bottom core sample, Lake Ōkāreka, Feb 2021. Photo by Mike Goodwin

Recent Visitors to Lake Ōkāreka Walkway Wetland area:

Some of you may have noticed the recent visitors to the Lake Ōkāreka Walkway wetland area. They are Royal Spoonbills (black-billed spoonbill, *Platalea regia*, kotuku ngutupapa) and this is the third summer that we know of their visits. The numbers coming are increasing... there were 7 birds who visited recently.

Currently weed and willow control work is continuing in the Millar Road wetland area. If you would like to help with this, please get in touch. Otherwise please watch out for the Landcare Ōkāreka Working Bee signs a bit later in the year, when we begin planting again. We welcome anyone who would like to come and lend a hand. Lake Ōkāreka and its public conservation environment would look nothing like it does without all of the hard work of the Landcare Ōkāreka volunteers over the years, since 2003. Thank you to everyone who has helped over the last 12 months or so. Watch out for the Landcare Ōkāreka signboards which announce each working bee. Or contact me if you would like to be added to the email list of volunteers.

Sandra

Sandra Goodwin
Landcare Ōkāreka

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Lake Ōkareka COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

7:00pm to 8:00pm. Thursday, 10th February 2022

Lake Ōkareka Community Hall

AGM Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Acceptance of Minutes of 2021 LōCA AGM
3. Consideration of Annual Report and Audited Financial Statement
4. Resolution as to Audit Requirement/Appointment of Auditor
5. Confirmation of Annual Subscription
6. Election of Officers – Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Committee
7. Discussion of other such matters as may be properly considered at such a meeting.

Followed by supper

*Everyone
Welcome!*

Carrie Abbott (Bsc)

DOC - Rotorua

0272737695

DOC Update for Summer 2022

Fine for offender who removed native vegetation from public conservation land at Lake Rotoehu

The occupier of a lakefront home at Lake Rotoehu has been issued an infringement notice for the unauthorised removal of an area of native vegetation dominated by raupō from a wetland between their home and the Lake

The native lakeshore vegetation removed was on Marginal Strip, administered by the Department of Conservation (DOC) at Otautau Bay, Lake Rotoehu. An anonymous tip-off led DOC Rangers to the site, where large quantities of raupō had been removed and dumped.

Maintaining natural wetland vegetation is important to help improve the water quality of Lake Rotoehu

“Raupō is known for its water purification properties. It helps clean the waterways and is an important habitat for wildlife including eels, and wetland birds such as dabchick, spotless crakes and bittern” says DOC Ranger Catherine Noble. The plant is also known to have important cultural values, being used in traditional cooking, as a building material and to make poi.

“Raupō naturally dies back each Winter, and then re-generates in in Spring. Unfortunately, when the raupō was removed it provided the opportunity for invasive weeds to spread into the area.”

As vegetation on the DOC marginal strip is protected by the Conservation Act 1987, individuals who remove vegetation without permission could face prosecution and a fine of up to \$100,000 or imprisonment for up to two years.



“This case serves as another reminder to the public to check boundaries and land ownership and seek any necessary permissions from relevant authorities before undertaking any work in or near lake margins or waterways” says Catherine Noble.

DOC has been focusing on unauthorised activities on marginal strips around the Rotorua lakes in recent years. The Department has been engaged with a variety of neighbouring landowners with a project to limit ongoing unauthorised use by some occupiers which had occurred over many years.

Members of the public are encouraged to call 0800 DOCHOT if they see any unusual activity, removal of vegetation or earthworks on any Reserve or lake shore marginal strip.

Old man's beard being tackled in Lake Ōkāreka's Scenic Road

A DOC contractor has recently been engaged to tackle old man's beard, focusing on around Ōkāreka Loop Road and Miller Road. Also known as wild clematis, this invasive plant grows rapidly, forming dense, heavy masses which dominate the canopy, often smothering and killing other plants. If you have old man's beard growing around your property, visit www.weedbusters.org.nz for tips on how to get rid of it.

Boost in threatened black-billed gull fledglings

Following years of unsuccessful breeding, Department of Conservation rangers and a team of dedicated conservation volunteers are ecstatic to note 30 tarāpuka (black-billed gull) fledglings around the Sulphur Bay Wildlife Refuge.

The survival of the 30 fledglings comes after decades of non-productive breeding, as the colony battled flooding, human disturbance, and predation by rats, stoats, cats, and even the larger black backed gulls which are frequently observed in the area.

Typically, these birds are found in the South Island, living on the gravel islands in braided riverbeds, with only about 5% of the population in the North Island. However, Rotorua's Sulphur Bay has a special inland colony of around 400 birds which dates back to 1939.

“Tarāpuka can live for up to 25 years but with no fledged chicks in decades, the long-term survival of this colony was starting to look slim. Our volunteers have monitored this colony for years and it's been really disheartening to see no fledglings in previous years,” says Biodiversity Ranger Kelli Patterson.

30 Tarāpuka chicks have been banded, as a result DOC and the volunteers can monitor the colony in the future to see if these chicks will return to Sulphur Bay to breed. A trap network has been installed around the breeding area to help reduce predation, and cameras have been set up to monitor the colony during the summer months when nesting occurs.

“The colony of Tarāpuka at Sulphur Bay are not out of the woods yet but the 2021/2022 breeding season has brought hope to the rangers and volunteers who have been caring for the colony.”

Black-billed gulls are only found in New Zealand. The species' conservation status recently improved to “At Risk – Declining” in the latest Bird Threat Classification Report, released in December, but they





are still threatened by introduced predators like stoats, rats and hedgehogs, and from habitat loss and human disturbance.

They primarily eat invertebrates and fish and are less likely to be found scavenging than the dominating Black backed gulls which are also seen in the area and around landfill sites.

For more info on tarāpuka: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/native-animals/birds/birds-a-z/black-billed-gull/>

Covid-19 policy

Visitor facilities including huts, campgrounds, toilets and visitor centres are open under Red and Orange. From 15 December 2021, eligible people aged 12 years three months and over must be fully vaccinated to use DOC huts and campgrounds. This is to ensure those using huts and campsites don't put themselves or others at unnecessary risk while enjoying our great outdoors this summer.

Thank you

Carrie

Carrie
DOC- Rotorua

Merlin Sheffield

Registered Electrician, Rotorua

P (07) 362 8572

E merlselectrical@gmail.com



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Backyard Trapping Project

The Lake Okareka Backyard Trapping Team have been out on the streets knocking on doors and asking for your help. We are trying to set up a network of rat trapping tunnels that we can check on a regular basis to help us keep a tab on the rat population and gather data for our village. At this stage we are just looking for willing homeowners to allow us to put a trap/tunnel on their front boundary so that it can be easily checked by us without having to go onto private property. The traps are inside a wooden tunnel and are very safe for children and other pets. (see below image)



There is also a loan service for our Trapinator possum traps. So, if you have a noisy night time visitor in your trees give us a call and we can help you set up a temporary trap.



If you are interested in helping with this project, either by assisting going door to door with the team or volunteering to have a trap in your front boundary that is run by us or by purchasing your own trap to run yourself then get in touch via the details below.

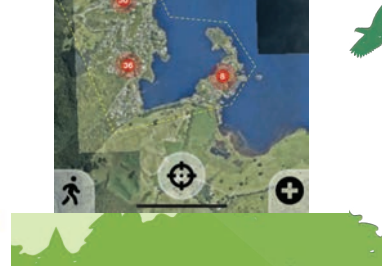
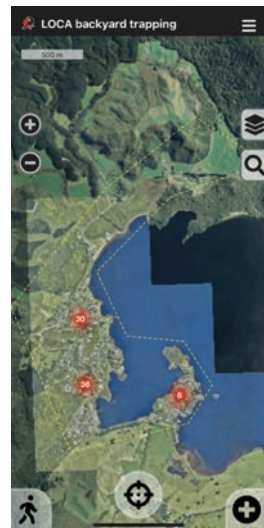
Email: Tim - tsbell.nz@gmail.com

Rich - rlang17@outlook.com

You can also assist by downloading the <https://trap.nz/> app to your phone and get in touch with Tim who will give you access to the 'LOCA' backyard trapping project. You can also see our trap locations and check records for results. It's a fun addition to a family walk.

\$10 for a T-Rex easy set rat trap and tunnel. \$15 for Trapinator Possum traps.

For more information contact LOCA committee member Tim Bell on tsbell.nz@gmail.com or 021 026 36141



Classified Advertisements

Justice of the Peace: available locally, 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.

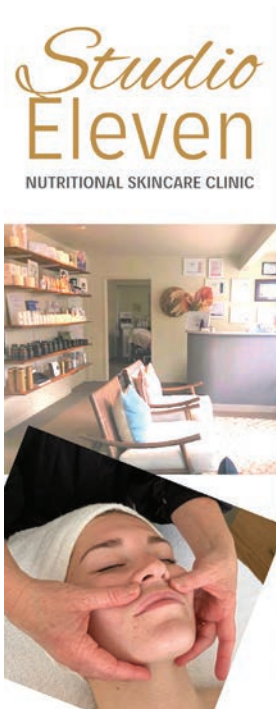
Looking for one-of-a-kind, affordable, locally made gifts? Colourful Bohemian-style textile art handbags, brooches, cushions are hand made at Ōkāreka by Carol. To view phone 07 3628 878.

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



Studio
Eleven
NUTRITIONAL SKINCARE CLINIC

The image shows the interior of the Studio Eleven clinic, featuring shelves stocked with various skincare products and a reception desk. Below this, there is a close-up photo of a person's face being treated by a practitioner.



Award Winning Skin Clinic

Awarded Most Promising Therapist 2021
NZ Association of Beauty Professionals

Runner up dermaviduals Australasia
Treating Skin Barrier Disorders

Finalist OBSERV NZ Conference - for Skin Results

Certified in Oncology Esthetics, Medical Microneedling, Gua Sha, Electroporation, Mesotherapy, Nutritional Skincare
Treating acne, rosacea, psoriasis, eczema, scarring, anti-ageing and general skin health

www.studio-eleven.co.nz
fb Studio Eleven - Nutritional Skincare Clinic
11 Calder Road, Lake Okareka
021 024 81878

The image also includes a photo of several bottles of dermaviduals skincare products.