

# Lake Ōkāreka

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



*Newsletter*  
*Feb 2023*

INSIDE NEWSLETTER

FLOODING NEWS  
PEST TRAPPING UPDATE  
PHOTO COMP  
RAFT RACE 2023  
FIRE STATION UPDATE

The Newsletter of the Lake Ōkāreka Community Association (Inc.) (LŌCA)  
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**Website:** [www.lakeokareka.org](http://www.lakeokareka.org)

#### Your Committee:

Mitch Collins	Chair	027 574 1456
Stu Wallace	Treasurer	021 665 955

Dennis Falconer 027 596 6942	Charlie	027 494 8404
Gregg Brown 029 346 0108	Peter Muys	021 950 279
Colin Jackson 021 306 378	Richard Lang	027 4599 018
Andrew Witters 021 993 940	Cliff Graham	0274 211 489

#### Disclaimer Statement:

The views & opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the LŌCA Committee.

## Useful Phone Numbers

**Emergencies** Police Fire Ambulance 111  
**Police Non Emergency:** 105 or [www.police.govt.nz/use-105](http://www.police.govt.nz/use-105).

**Coastguard** For on-water assistance call \*500  
For marine emergencies call 111 or VHF Channel 16  
0800 5 KNOTS (0800 55 66 87)

**Harbour master** 0800 5 KNOTS (0800 55 66 87)

**Parking Issues** 07348 4199

**Rotorua Hospital** 07 348 1199  
**Lakes Primecare** 07 348 1000 1165 Tutanekai street

**Poisons** Urgent Info 0800 764 766  
Non Urgent 03 474 7000

**Rotorua Lakes Council** 07 348 4199  
**BOP Regional council** 0800 884 880  
**Department of Conservation** 07 349 7400

# Anita Martelli

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## Lake Okareka

SPECIALIST | PASSIONATE | RESIDENT

Okareka local, Anita Martelli, has a passion for the area, and a passion for Real Estate.

To get the latest information on the changing Real Estate market, or to take advantage of one of the many things we offer, give Anita a call today. She's always happy to help!

**Check out Anita's listing below, at 8 Branch Road.**  
A 4 bedroom lockwood, set in leafy surrounds, close to the boat ramp, mountain biking trails, scenic walks and tennis courts, makes an ideal holiday or permanent lake retreat.





## Chair's Report Summer 2023

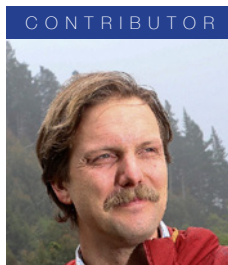
**Kia ora e te whānau, Welcome to 2023. I'm sure you are all keen to get this summer over with. I'll acknowledge that the local "kūmara vine" grows fastest when there is a lot of wet weather, which is why it is so important to get this newsletter out and keep everyone updated.**

First and foremost, I'd like to celebrate the tireless work our former Chair, Kim, put into the role and the Committee over many years. After leading us through a couple of lockdowns and a bit of a shock to our community model, her business and governance acumen with a desire to establish an effective pest and predator control programme in the Lake Ōkāreka Scenic Reserve is now underway and supported by LōCA funds. We look forward to some great results for our native wildlife and the regeneration of the subcanopy from browsing.

As for me, I've been on for a while since being Secretary, I'm an Environmental Manager for my day job and expecting our second child soon - so a sucker for punishment. I'm supported by a strong committee that includes (among many skills, but not limited to) a Councillor, an events exponent, a cop, a bean counter, an OG computer whiz, and a pyro. We're all volunteers and always looking for, in addition to all the feedback, some support in the day-to-day operations in keeping this place "sweet".

Even with the weather, Lake Ōkāreka remains popular and with many mixed recreation values. We've made it a priority that public infrastructure does its first job first and is fit for that purpose. The boat ramp being a prime example, where we have identified a series of congestion, safety, and conflicting use issues. Early initiatives have been to decommission the BBQ table and relocate it to Boyes Beach, relocate the noticeboard, and better demarcate swimming and boat loading zones. Results anecdotally have been an improvement, based on observations from last year's installed surveillance cameras. Further work to improve the accessibility of the Ōkāreka boat ramp and provide alternative locations for other activities (particularly for things you can jump off), including at other lakes, is underway with Council.

LōCA used to hold its AGM on an afternoon during Auckland Anniversary weekend, a busy time of the year for many. Following changes to our Constitution around the audit cycle, we can now hold our AGM much more promptly, and around October without significant delay to results. In terms of strategy, nothing has changed and the Committee is still committed to the LōCA 2020-2023 Strategy. We will be seeking feedback on future direction in 2024.



Mitch Collins  
**LōCA - Chair**  
027 574 1456

CONTRIBUTOR

One thing that I would like to champion further to assist with the large number of environmental projects underway in the catchment is a broad "5-Point Plan" centered on Pest Plants.

### 1. Educate Lake Ōkāreka residents on pest plants and identify advocates for training

With support from the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, we will distribute information on priority pest plant species and promote courses on their management

### 2. Promote and use tools to identify, track and remove pest plant species

Using spatial mapping tools to; locate various species of pest plants, regularly check on the progress of control, and allow contractors to assist in the removal of particular incursions (e.g. Climbing Spindleberry and Old Man's Beard). Proactive use of a proven and public tool will create an effective and coordinated response.



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## Dear Resident / Ratepayer: Subscriptions Now Due

The subscription year for LÖCA runs from the 1st October 2022 to 30th September 2023. We appreciate your support by way of subscription and or donation. Please note that as LÖCA is a charitable organisation, a donation over \$5 is tax deductible.

Subscription **\$30 per ratepayer**  
GST Number: **055-059-802**  
Charities Number: **45051**  
Bank: **Westpac Rotorua,**  
Account No: **03 1552 0115767 00**  
Reference Field: **Name and Address**

### 3. Assist the established six care groups in the catchment and encourage new entrants

Lake Ōkāreka community has high engagement in environmental initiatives. The catchment currently has six groups dedicated to improving this; Backyard Trapping, Forest & Bird Rotorua, Pest Free Lake Ōkāreka Scenic Reserve, LandCare Ōkāreka, Rotorua Botanical Society - Mistletoe Project, and Tipu Wai. LÖCA has donated to initiatives, such as the bamboo removal in the wetland by LandCare, with Tipu Wai support. We are committed to making funds for enhancement more widely available to such initiatives and not just to these groups. If you have an idea with some others and need support (it could be some tools for a working bee, or snags for the BBQ afterwards), send us a plan and what you need, and we'll support it if we think it is in the community interest.



### 4. Fund the poisoning of pest trees on private and public land where there isn't a safety hazard

The 2022 pilot project using Jobs for Nature funded Te Arawa Lakes Trust's support in poisoning the cherry trees of Millar Road Hill was a success. LÖCA will fund contractors on rural and conservation land to poison pest trees that dominate the canopy, create imbalanced food systems for native fauna and have widespread seed dispersal. We will encourage replacement with native trees and avoid trees that could pose a safety risk. Landowner permission is mandatory.

### 5. Arrange with Rotorua Lakes Council, the safe removal and control of all pest trees from the road reserves

This is perhaps our most ambitious proposal. Along the Council road reserves, we have a large number of trees that overhang or border the roads and pose a significant hazard to road safety that need to be removed. We will engage with Rotorua Lakes Council and with them make a plan to ID and remove these pest trees, assisting with traffic management and replacement with low-maintenance natives that better support our road margins. There may even be some free firewood...

In managing the pest critters who eat all the sub-canopy and the pest plants that compete for space, we can help the bush regenerate itself. Increasing our ecological capital will make this the best place to live. This, of course, is all supported by the dedicated management of the Boyes Beach and DoC

campgrounds where collected fees are invested back into the community. The immense contribution of volunteer Camp Managers, Cliff and Diane, is very much appreciated. The return of international tourists has seen a lift in income (on the dry days) and with more eyes at these campgrounds, we have seen a marked improvement in behaviour.



I have received some inquiries as to the status of the walking track project.

Following the poll of the community, we received nearly two-thirds support from respondents. The Committee has made the decision to progress, targeting next summer for the build and to fulfill the prerequisite conditions of our resource consent held.

Thanks for your time committed to providing feedback. Key themes identified were; geotechnical, funding contribution, and the number of visitors to the community. We are undertaking a measured approach to what these all represent, the actual effects, as well as any further considerations, with the landowners and regulators.

Mā te Wā,

*Mitch*

Mitch Collins

Chair - Lake Ōkāreka Community Association

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## Lake Ōkāreka Volunteer Rural Fire

**Like spring, the summer season has been a mixed bag of weather with spells of warm, hot days and also periods of a lot more rain than we would generally like over the holiday season. This pattern also looks to continue into February.**

While this hasn't been the greatest summer for holiday plans, the plus side is that this has kept fire risk levels low. Despite this, the grass verges around Ōkāreka (that unfortunately were not mowed before Christmas and are now very long and drying out) still present a potential fire risk. Please stay vigilant and call in any smoke you observe in the neighbourhood and surrounding areas, and continue to be aware of fire and permit restrictions throughout the fire season.

While the summer months and holiday season are still in progress, please also be aware of increased tourists, traffic, cyclists and pedestrians around the Lake Ōkāreka and Blue Lake areas.

In November last year, five members of the brigade were awarded the Australia National Emergency Medal for services provided during various deployments to the Australian community during the 2019/2020 bushfire season. This is the first time such an award has been made outside Australia, which is a rare and special honour for all those across the country who were recipients. A special acknowledgment and congratulations go to Ray Doyle, Stu Lyall, Hamish Smith and Tony Young who were the recipients from Lake Ōkāreka, along with myself.



Sulphur Point Fire

Over the last few months, the brigade has had a steady run of callouts which more recently included a car going into the lake at the boat ramp and a fire in the Sulphur Point area in town.

The brigade has enjoyed having a fuller complement of members over the last few months. However, with February just around the corner, we will once again see a drop in numbers as several of our members head off to university. 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 you can also visit our website for more information: <http://www.Ōkārekaruralfire.co.nz/>.



Phil Muldoon  
Chief Fire Officer  
[pmh.ltd@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pmh.ltd@xtra.co.nz)

Finally, after 20 years as Chief of the Lake Ōkāreka Volunteer Fire Brigade, I have decided that it is time to step aside and hand the reins over to someone else to take the brigade forward into the next era of the brigade's long and proud history and place in this special community. It has been a privilege overseeing the brigade's services and contribution to the local community and wider Rotorua district. We have progressed in so many ways and achieved great things in terms of capability, credibility and resources, numerous national and international fire deployments, and notable achievements such as fundraising for our own fire appliance and tanker, and the building of the new station. However, the main highlights over the years for me have been growing the membership and diversity of the brigade, having so many young members from the community join up and participate not only in the operational activities but also as part of the management committee, and the support of so many people in the community across the years. I will continue to be an active member of the brigade, but I step down as Chief knowing that the brigade is in a great position to move forward into the future.

At the time of writing, the process of appointing a new Chief for the brigade is still in progress. Needless to say, this is my last article for the community newsletter.

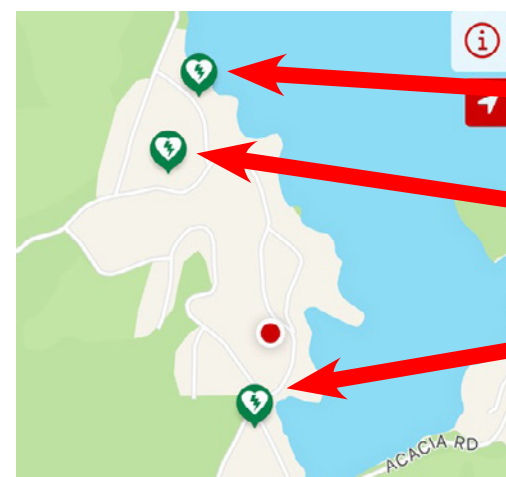
Thank you for the support you have offered to myself and the brigade as a whole, and long may this continue for the next Chief and the future generations of the Lake Ōkāreka Volunteer Fire Brigade.

*Phil*

Phil Muldoon  
Chief Fire Officer



Car in the lake at the boat ramp



## AED Locations

- 15 Steep Street  
Cabinet by the front door
- Ōkāreka Preschool/Community Hall  
External cabinet by the main door
- Ōkāreka Fire Station  
Secure cabinet by the front door



## Raft Race 2022 / 2023

The Lake Ōkareka Raft Race in Feb 2022 was our biggest ever. Lynmore Scouts came out in droves. We had around 60 kids, 12 rafts and raised over \$120 for the Lake Ōkareka Fire Station team in their Sky Tower climb for Leukemia and Blood Cancer Foundation. The race is only for kids but pop along because it's always a good fun community event with lots of laughs. 5.30pm Wednesday 15th March 2023. See you there!



Michelle Herrick  
**LŌCA Editor**  
runningmichelle77@gmail.com



LAKE ŌKĀREKA *Annual* **KIDS^RAFT RACE** PRIZES TO BE WON!

Acacia Bay Reserve, 5.30pm Wed 15th March 2023

Entry \$10 per raft (all proceeds to Firestation for Leukaemia + Blood Cancer Race)

Email [runningmichelle77@gmail.com](mailto:runningmichelle77@gmail.com) or 021 77 33 21 for more information









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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](mailto:rotorualakes@boprc.govt.nz)



## See something? Do something!

Although the community at large may not see the outcomes of reporting to Police, I can assure you all information given is collated and available to Police at anytime.

I have seen the results of reporting incidents to Police in the form of directed patrols, areas that have come to Police attention (through your reporting) get attention, it may not be apparent, but it does happen. Along that theme, the opportunities and assistance our cameras give in assisting locating and identifying those responsible for crime in our community, is invaluable. CCTV cameras and their footage are becoming increasingly important in detecting, identifying and holding those responsible for crime to account.

Recently there was a boat stolen from our area, this was tracked for some distance through CCTV.

Keep reporting through the channels listed below, and remember to contact the harbourmaster should you seen any questionable behaviour on our lakes. When reporting gather as much information as possible to identify the vessel, people and vehicles responsible for the behaviour, write it down, photograph or video are great methods of identification. As always never put yourself in harms way.



Rich Lang  
**LōCA - Member**  
**Serving Police Officer**  
0274 599 018



## Tikitapu Pest Control Project

The 2022 pest control project in Tikitapu Scenic Reserve went relatively smoothly in comparison to the previous two years, when Covid restrictions affected work days. For 2022 the anti-coagulant Pindone was chosen for the bait station network and this was distributed on 31st July and mid-August. Any remaining bait was removed at the end of August 2022.

The original plan included using capsules (Feratox Biobags) containing potassium cyanide to target marsupials (possums and wallabies). Subsequently we were informed that the Biobags were unavailable this year due to the manufacturer (Connovations) being unable to obtain potassium cyanide from their usual supplier. No other option was available in the time frame so Cyanide was not applied in 2022.

Monitoring of rats was carried out pre and post baiting with Pindone. Rat trakka cards were placed in rat track tunnels two weeks before the start of the bait programme and two weeks after the removal of remaining bait. Results were: Pre-baiting 64% rats, Post-baiting 10% rats.



Stoat stealing an egg

Mice were also recorded on the trakka cards: Pre-baiting 14% mice, Post-baiting 4% mice.

Although marsupial monitoring using wax tags had been planned to take place at the same time as the rat monitoring, the tags were unavailable and consequently this index was not obtained in 2022.

Fifty Sentinel (targeting possums) and fifty DOC 200 traps (rats, mustelids, hedgehogs, mice) are deployed around the perimeter of the managed area. An additional line of traps (10 each DOC 200 and Sentinel) was installed through the centre of the managed area in July 2022. Bi monthly trap checks were carried out with a total of 77 individual visits during the year.

### CONTRIBUTOR

Margaret Dick  
**Forest & Bird**  
0274202022

Catches for the year were: Rats 226, Possums 141, Stoats/weasels 5, Mice 78, Hedgehogs 20.

A further group of volunteers carried out regular checks and maintenance of the Nature and Mistletoe Walks in the reserve. The mistletoe continues to flourish, to such an extent that the next census of mistletoe numbers will be a daunting task. There are many reports of beautiful bird song. So, the prime reason for this programme, which is the protection of the 2 rare mistletoes, is being achieved.

This project has depended for many years on the tireless work of Frances and James Blakely. Their input, in planning and organising, and in the reserve itself, has been incalculable. Forest & Bird, and the Ōkāreka community, are immensely grateful. We wish them all the best in their retirement from the project.

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 2023.

*Margaret*

Margaret Dick  
Rotorua.branch@forestandbird.org.nz







## Lake Ōkareka Preschool News

Welcome back to Preschool we look forward to hearing all about everyone's summer holidays. Congratulations to Lucy and Josh on the safe arrival of baby Trent born early January weighing 7lbs 6 oz.

We had a fantastic turn out for our working bee, a big thank you to all who helped tidy up the playground, orchard and fix it jobs inside. Your hard work is much appreciated. A special shout out to Connor McCormick for numerous trips to the dump.

We have started enjoying the fruits of our labour harvesting our produce of cucumbers, zucchinis, roly polly, carrots, limes and we can't wait to make rhubarb crumble. A big thank you to Grandad



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

John for watering our veggies and plants over the summer. With lots of fun events planned we are looking forward to celebrating Chinese New Year, Australia day, Waitangi, Crankworx and much much more.

Preschool contact 362 8606, email [office@lakeOkarekapreschool.co.nz](mailto:office@lakeOkarekapreschool.co.nz).  
[www.lakeOkarekapreschool.co.nz](http://www.lakeOkarekapreschool.co.nz)  
and Like us on Facebook and see what other adventures we have been up to.

*Leslie, Davina  
and Megan*

Your Teaching Team,  
Leslie, Davina and Megan



The big clean up!

# #loveourlakes Photo competition

Win a  
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board

Enter  
now

The Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme works to protect and restore the lakes as a taonga for the future.

Got some snaps of your favourite swimming spot? Some photos of your tamariki enjoying the Rotorua Te Arawa lakes? Perhaps you've taken a shot of the perfect sunrise over Lake Tarawera? Share your snapshots with us and be in to win.

To enter the competition, tell us why you love our lakes and upload your photo at [rotorualakes.co.nz](http://rotorualakes.co.nz)

Entries close 12pm, 1 March, 2023. Terms and conditions apply.

BAY OF PLENTY  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
TOI MOANA

Rotorua  
Te Arawa Lakes  
Programme



# TARAWERA ULTRA MARATHON

BY UTMB

Event Date: Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Residents and Businesses,

The Tarawera Ultramarathon is taking place on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2023. We are thrilled to be able to stage a major event in the Rotorua region in what has been a challenging time of late. After joining the UTMB World Series of events, we are expecting a high number of visitors into the area.

The event features 100 Mile, 102km, 50km and 21km race distances. The start lines are located at Te Puia, Lake Tikitapu (Blue Lake) Scenic Reserve and Kawerau's Firmin Field, with all races finishing at the Village Green in downtown Rotorua. We are expecting 5,000+ athletes and their supporters for the race.

With an event of this size we rely on the goodwill of businesses and residents to help make this event a success. In order to host a safe event for all, we have some road restrictions and closures in place around the region.

Please note we have one major road closure in place for a short amount of time on Tarawera Road between the Blue Lake Boat Ramp down to the Blue Lake Lookout at the southern end of the lake. This closure will be in place between 8:45am and 10:00am on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – see yellow line below



Wider course and event information can be found by visiting [www.taraweraultra.co.nz](http://www.taraweraultra.co.nz). If you require any further information or have any concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing [taraweraultra@ironman.com](mailto:taraweraultra@ironman.com).

Many thanks in advance for your support,  
**Mitch Murcott**  
 Race Director – Tarawera Ultramarathon by UTMB

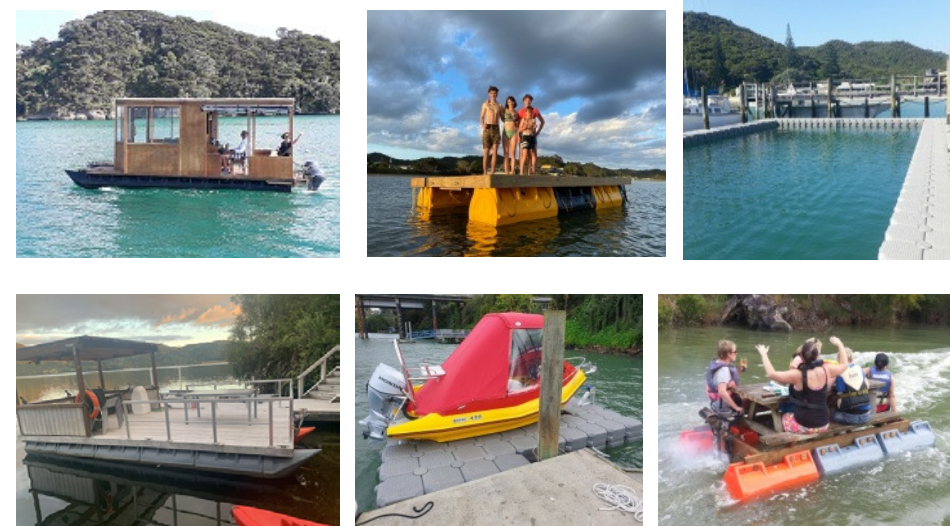
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## More volunteers needed!

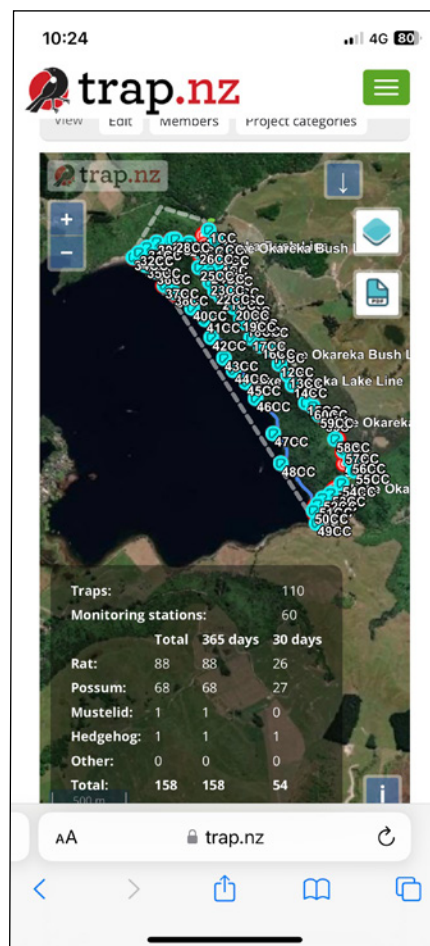
Lake Ōkāreka has a number of dedicated volunteers servicing a variety of pest traps and bait stations in the catchment to help the flora and fauna, and every catch is helping us all to achieve a Pest free catchment.

One area that until recently has not been controlled is the scenic reserve many of us see across the lake. This piece of forest is the home to some wonderful but struggling forest and also a number of native birds. With LOCA funding in early October 2022, 60+ trap stations were set up with the objective of protecting the 100 hectare forest. Due to the rugged terrain the set up of this project was challenging, and another reason why this has not been undertaken before. The lines run all from the DOC campground to the lake outlet.

A number of local volunteers have been improving the network over the summer. The early results have been



Kim Lorigan  
LŌCA  
kim@waipari.co.nz



very promising with a total of 158 pests killed in the area including 68 possums. Drone footage was taken of the area so future improvement of the forest canopy can be seen along with a plan to do bird counts and compare those to local sites that have no control.

The team use the "Trap.nz" app to record catch data as they trap which can be analysed to improve trapping.

This project complements other trapping in the area making Lake Ōkāreka the only lake in the region to have complete control around the whole lake .

If you are interested in learning more or helping please contact Kim (021831200) or Colin (021306378)

*Kim*

Kim  
LOCA - Former Chair





# New Years Day Yacht Race 2023

## Dr Ron Caughey Memorial Yacht Race

Sandwiched between days of high winds or rain, we were so fortunate with the day. Local sailors and families came out to enjoy the 47th New Years Day yacht race at Boyes Beach. While it was a colder day than usual, the winds were brisk and kept sailors on their mettle throughout.

The yachts gathered in colourful array and set off in turn on a handicapped start. There was some great sailing and keen competition amongst sailors, both young and less young. It was especially good to see younger sailors out there racing!

The Cup for First Place was presented to Michael Smith and grandchildren crew in their Hobie 16  
Second Place - Harry Lusk sailing a Laser (grandson of Ron Caughey)  
Third Place - Alex Daprini also a Laser



The winning yachts and their sailors Michael Smith with Izack and Hayden in First Place and Harry Lusk in Second Place.



Winners Michael Smith and crew, grandsons Hayden and Izack holding the Cup.



Christine Caughey  
christine.caughey@gmail.com

Fourth Place - Arthur and Richard Caughey, father and son team, in a Hobie 16

The Good Sportsmanship Cup in memory of Bob Van Boven, was won by his son, George, and crew. Sailing Bob's Monarch 17, the old boat had a mind of its own and kept circling back to the start line – at least three times. The family crew and Scotty drew on their innate prowess in good humour and completed the race in a respectable 1 hour 20 minutes.

Big thanks to Michael Smith and Dennis Goodwin for laying and retrieving the course markers, and to Dennis and Sharon and to Michelle and Tom for their role in the support boats.

Big thanks to Telfer Marine in Hamiora Place for their generous voucher for the first-place winner.

A happy day was enjoyed by all.

*Christine*  
Christine Caughey



Hayden and Izack ready to sound the horn as the Bay 4 Meter (sailed by Jonty Olsen) and Farr 6000 (sailed by Martin Caughey) compete for the line!

ALL OVER THE LAKES

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

Jenny Donne - Lakes Specialist

I am experiencing a high rate of buyer enquiry at the moment so if you are thinking of coming to the market please give me a call. The Lakes market has been my specialty for over 11 years which gives me a wealth of knowledge of the local community plus being backed by the Bayleys brand with strong national and international links gives your property a leading edge in today's market.

Thinking of coming to the market? Call me today for a free, no obligation, confidential appraisal.

Jenny Donne

Lakes and Residential Sales

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## Flood Risk Lake Ōkāreka

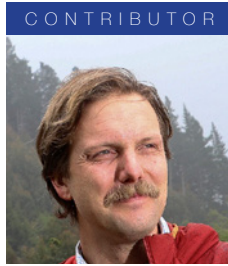
Some may have seen my topless front-page article in a recent Daily Post. Apologies, I was told I would get on Page 3...

**I'd first like to acknowledge the support of the Playnes Family, initially in the 1960's in response to the first flooding event and again, in allowing access, works and disruption to their farm operations so that we can keep our feet dry.**

On the back of some great response to community concern from Bay of Plenty Regional Council, in conjunction with the landowners, have increased the flow capacity from 239 l/s to 500 l/s (with some more headroom to about 800 l/s in any emergency).

***The upgraded pipeline and downstream erosion protection works has allowed BOPRC to maintain high flows in the Waitangi Stream as a result of a lot of wet weather received since Winter began last year. The lake level has only just returned to its consented maximum range in the last few weeks. Until then, up to 500 Litres per second had been flowing through the pipeline and stream since June 2022. It is highly likely that without the upgrade work, Lake Ōkāreka residents would have seen very high lake levels similar to, if not worse than, those experienced in 2018.***

**- Justine Randall, BOPRC**



Mitch Collins  
**LōCA - Chair**  
027 574 1456

The news of the upgrades and their success came at the same time as the "Vulnerable Communities Exposed to Flood Hazard" report by the Department of Internal Affairs. It came with some confusion as not only did the report state that Lake Ōkāreka was at physical risk of flooding, but was in the bottom 10% of socio-economic vulnerability. I am pleased to share that we are no longer on this list as confirmed by Associate Local Government Minister Kieran McNulty. Other communities will not be as fortunate to control their flood risk as we have.



The work isn't quite over yet. The next case is to get Rotorua Lakes Council to update their "Inundation Restriction Levels" as shown on their GIS mapping tool Geyserview (screenshots below). Based on the updated information projected out to 2095, in theory, Lake Ōkāreka should not flood, making a review of these maps necessary. If you have a low-lying property it is in your best interests to ask that RLC get this off your LIM report.

*Mitch*

Mitch Collins  
Chair - Lake Ōkāreka Community Association





## Landcare Ōkareka Summer 2023

As you will all know this has been a very different spring and into summer with so much rainfall and not a lot of hot sunny days. Rain is great for trees and plants, but sadly also for huge amounts of weed growth and not great weather for controlling these. However, some of our keen and conscientious volunteers have managed to carry out weed control in amongst the plantings in the Millar Road and the Boyes beach wetland area, in particular

### Millar Road / Boyes beach wetland:

Landcare Ōkareka volunteers have undertaken many hours of weed pest removal amongst the plantings from 2020, 2021 and 2022, to keep the new plants growing well, and not so restricted by weed growth. Further site preparation work is happening in the DOC part of the Millar Road wetland, where the machine "Chewy" from Tipu Waiariki and the operator Ashleigh Edwards, paid for by LOCA, came in November 2022 to help start to get an area ready for planting this coming winter in the area. Volunteers will continue with site preparation work in this area, as the weather allows.

Bamboo from the first site was successfully removed from an area near the Te Waiariki Pūrea Trust's roadway into the paddle shed, and the area has been replanted by LO volunteers. Thanks to Rotorua Trust for the funding to get this area cleared of bamboo and reinstated. We would like to work with Te Waiariki Pūrea Trust and the waka ama club to try to remove the bamboo from the area near the recreation shed. This bamboo is different from the first lot, with much bigger stems and it is spreading rapidly in this warm wet tropical weather.



The mulching machine "Chewy" operated by Ashleigh Edwards starting some weed control in another part of Millar Road wetland, for planting winter 2023.



Sandra Goodwin  
Landcare Ōkareka  
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Scott and Neil from Landcare Research undertaking monitoring some of the plots in Millar Road wetland in November 2022"

### Long Tailed Bat Monitoring:

This monitoring project is continuing over summer and into autumn. Some of these monitors have been on private land and we thank those land owners who have been so supportive of this monitoring work. It will be interesting to see what effect the on going wet weather will have on the bat activities. Long tailed bats continue to have a significant presence in places at times, within the Lake Ōkareka catchment.

### Repairs to Track from Summit Road to Loop Road near Sewage Pump Station: AKA Pump Station Track:

Landcare Ōkareka volunteers undertook a Working Bee on this track to try to stabilise the surface in the lower section. The construction mats were donated to the project by local residents. Thank you to the donors of the mats, to Peter Harding for carting the gravel and to the quarry for the gravel used.



Landcare Ōkareka volunteers making repairs to the Pump Station track just before Christmas 2022".

### Animal Pest Trapping:

The team of Landcare Ōkareka volunteers continue to check and rebait the traps along the various trapping lines around the edge of Lake Ōkareka and in the Millar Road wetlands on a regular basis. The weather has not been great for this work either. 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. 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.



### Rat Bait Available:

Ditrac rat bait for bait stations is still available. This is funded by Bay of Plenty Regional Council. If you require bait for your bait station please contact either Rod Stace 362 8523 or Mike & Sandra Goodwin 362 8865 to arrange a time to collect.

### Litter and Rubbish Collection:

A huge thank you to those caring local people who have been undertaking recent litter and rubbish collection around Lake Ōkāreka roads and reserve areas. Your efforts are really appreciated.

### Working Bees:

Please watch out for the Landcare Ōkāreka Working Bee signs over the next few months, 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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## Drone Footage over Lake Ōkāreka

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## Back Yard Trapping

**A trapping network has existed in the Lake Ōkāreka settlement for some years. But this last year it was given new impetus with a few new traps and lots of energy from the new recruits. About 20 local kids, generally between 10 -13 years old (add one year to those for 2023!), have volunteered their time and are now regularly clearing and rebaiting traps around the Ōkāreka Village.**

The aim is to monitor and control rat numbers using rat trap stations located in as many suitable spots as possible. We are using the online app 'Trap NZ' to record catch data such as location, species, bait used, number, date etc. This has enabled us to observe rat population trends throughout the year.

We currently have about 100 traps located around the village. The children have been grouped into teams and are each responsible for monitoring and re-baiting the stations in their block. Additionally, a small group of children have recently begun monitoring lakeside traps which are only accessible via boat.

Initially, the traps were checked twice weekly, but this has now been dropped to once a week. Our total catch numbers from May to December were 71 rats, 2 hedgehogs and 18 others (mostly mice): a grand total of 91 pests caught.



Throughout the year we have observed a noticeable decrease in catches, with highest numbers being caught in the first few months of the programme. This would suggest a decrease in the overall rat population but we will need to continue for the full 12 months to account for seasonal variations and confirm this trend.

As well as reducing rat numbers, this project has been a valuable educational experience for the children and promotes the nurturing and care of our local wildlife. For their efforts, LOCA has very kindly rewarded the children with pizza and a fun outing to Motion 10 pin bowling and the trampoline park. This has provided a very enjoyable opportunity for social bonding among the children in the community.

LOCA has also recently funded 70 additional traps to expand the coverage of our trapping operation. We're now looking for new homes for these traps. Do you have a suitable spot at your place for a trap? Woodsheds have been our most productive spots, near access ways under the house, near rubbish and recycling bins, or compost areas. Because the kids are often shy about going too far into people's sections, spots near the front of the house or roadside work best.

If you think you've got a suitable spot please contact Stu Wallace on 021665955 and we can deliver a trap.

Also, if you have one already but would like to move it, that's fine but just let Stu know so he can log the new location.





## Classified Advertisements

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

**Experienced Gardener:** Garden maintenance and improvements. Helping to bring beauty to outdoor spaces naturally. Verbal references on request. Please contact thegardenkeepernz@gmail.com or 0276435927

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

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

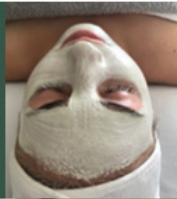
**Ian Bowyer:** Lawn mowing, upholstery and home maintenance, phone Ian 027 376 9482

**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.

**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.

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