



Lake Ōkareka

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

WAIORA

Newsletter *Spring 2020*

INSIDE NEWSLETTER

New Pou for Ōkareka
BBQ on the Lake 27th Nov
The History of Ōkareka
Ōkareka's Water Health
Pest Free Lake Ōkareka

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

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Chair's Report

Welcome to our newsletter for Summer 2021 and with this we hope that you are all saving the memories of this year into a file that is named 'one not to forget'! For many of us there has been change, and for some a jump back to how things were in the old days – for all of us there has been a reset of so many things. Each day we can be very grateful for this magical spot here at Lake Ōkareka, and in fact anywhere in NZ – as the rest of the world juggles many complex issues.

During that time of Covid-19 restrictions and lock downs I was very impressed how our various communities around NZ, came together, talked to neighbours and settled for a sense of happiness found by simply being at home with family, sharing time and new experiences on their back door step. Big thanks needs to go to Phil Muldoon, and his team along with the Neighbour Hood watch groups in our community that rallied in our community to ensure our residents both local and absent owners - had the help they needed, and knew where to get support during this time.

The opportunity came also after Covid-19 restrictions were lifted, for our community to give to a great cause – our Rotorua Families in need. Coordinated with the local Police, many of our residents who managed a 'clean out' during the lockdown period, were able to give generously to this cause. It was overwhelming the items that were received and the Police were able to deliver to families in Rotorua during a very difficult time.

STRATEGY

During the lockdown period, the committee were able to review our local strategy, even though it wasn't quite ready we took the opportunity to review that and the constitution. There was only a few things to update and bring up to speed, however it was certainly a good use of time, and enables us to move forward, knowing we have a strong supported community plan in place. It also allows future committees to have data and strategies to build on.

BOYES BEACH/DOC CAMP

While many projects stalled throughout the restricted period – your local committee remained focused on achieving what it could during that time. This included the completion of the Boyes Beach new facility, that has enabled a much improved camping experience at that site. This is the result of many years work, and our thanks to previous committees for supporting and building the rapport with Rotorua Lakes Council to Achieve this. It certainly looks very smart and has new technology to make



Kim Lorigan
LōCA - Chair
kim@waipari.co.nz

management of the facility a lot easier. Despite some initial hiccups, it is ready for the arrival of the summer camper van fraternity.

Our DOC Camp was well supported during the slower period of the winter with NZers who were ready to get out and about when they could. It continues to attract campers who are looking for something close to town but also a tenting adventure.

Revenue for both camps showed a reduction of 33%, to the Year end 30 September 2020. We restricted expenditure as much as possible plus negotiated some fixed cost reductions during the lockdown period. We continued to meet our management requirements of cleaning and collecting revenue, keeping on top of pest control and maintaining the facilities to our normal standards. A big shout out to the Camp team lead by Matt and Colin for pulling together and keeping on top of this, and to our collectors who have done a wonderful job.



Photo Credit: DOC Website



Photo Credit: LōCA Website

The committee held a working bee to keep on top of track maintenance, which is an important part of keeping the track useable and safe. This also forms part of our track maintenance contract with DOC, that will be audited this month. We continue to monitor the track and repair any damage that we can to maintain the track to a high standard. The audit will provide us with a good guide on how we are doing with maintenance and recommendations on improvements if necessary.

CCTV CRIME PREVENTION CAMERAS

The completion of the Community security cameras has been another project that has come to fruition and to our delight is making a difference already in our community. Again, these tasks take some time and many meetings with our local Council and contractors, to put together. Covid-19 again stalled this project, but it was completed in the first week of October 2020.

What do you do? Contact the Police –(Dial 105 on your mobile, or email into their website) – should you see anything of concern in our community.

PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

Continuing on with our strategy to improve and protect our environment and our water – a number of projects are being worked on along with DOC, EBOP, Rotorua Lakes Council and Te Arawa Lakes. There is much happening in the land pests (wallaby, possum, rats) including various meetings to bring together funding opportunities to achieve a better result for Lake Ōkareka than we have had. There is already extensive pest trapping and work being undertaken by Mike and Sandra Goodwin, Landcare Ōkareka, Mike Vincent and the Predator Free team in Lake Ōkareka – however this must continue to be supported by resource, and plans that ensure we are achieving our goals. We are a strong community with a lot of experience and knowledge to draw on. This work however must continue – to enable eradication to be possible. I encourage you all to play your part in this and talk to our Pest experts, to get assistance for your property if needed.

Water quality, catfish and wetland protection are also part of our strategy to manage and make sure we are current and ahead of where we can be in ensuring that our water continues to improve its quality. Thanks to Colin who continues to represent our interests in this area. There is a new dashboard that we are able to share with you – that illustrates and measures the quality of our water – great news as this way we can actually see what is happening.

The outlet management work is almost complete and the new consent is underway to enable better management of the minimum and maximum water levels. The final work is on a single pipe from the outlet that should be finished in the new year.

LAKE ŌKAREKA SPEED LIMITS

Like me you would have seen this topic in the community newsletter for many years. After a promise from the Mayor at our AGM last year, and thanks to many meetings and direction from Peter on our committee – we have an agreement to finally introduce some measures – prior to Christmas on all entry points to the Village. Watch out for them....!! It seems there is a two year project ahead to reduce the community speed to 40kph – we will keep working on this.

As your new Chair – I would like to thank you for your support and thank the support of my tireless team who are always willing to keep attending meetings, supporting our goals and giving up their time to help our community – they are a great bunch!! Please continue to communicate with us and feel free to bring your ideas to the attention of one of our committee members.

Our AGM is Wednesday, February 3 2021, - for this AGM it was decided to make a slight change to the timing, to get attendance from our locals and not intrude on peoples long weekends.

I'm looking forwards to seeing as many of you as possible on the 27th November at Waka Ama Club for a BBQ and DJ on the lake.

Kim Lorigan

Kim Lorigan - LŌCA Chair

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READY WHEN YOU ARE

Lake Ōkareka Community Association Annual General Meeting (LŌCA AGM)

Wednesday 3rd February 2021 6.30pm in the Lake Ōkareka Community Hall. All property owners and people living at Lake Ōkareka are welcome to attend.

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

These nominations are needed 14 days before the AGM – emailed to loca.secretary@gmail.com by Friday 22 January 2021, as required by the LŌCA Constitution.

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

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

Chairman Kim Lorigan
kim@waipari.co.nz

Secretary Mitch Collins
locasecretary@gmail.com

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

Report for Spring 2020

After a very strange year with the Covid-19 interruptions, it is pleasing to report that Landcare Ōkareka volunteers have undertaken several plantings in various reserves around Lake Ōkareka. Site preparation work was undertaken prior to Covid-19 lockdown and then resumed once conditions were safe again, to have areas ready in time for winter planting.



Colin Amrein's digger operating on weeds in the Millar Road wetland area, March 2020.



Ute and trailer loaded with plants from Scion and Tipu Wai to be unloaded....

Millar Road / Boyes beach wetland: a large area of the Rotorua Lakes Council part of the wetland, was mulched by Colin Amrein Contracting, of larger tree species weeds such as willow and blackberry, just prior to going into Covid-19 lockdown. Many thanks to LOCA for helping with the funding of this work (from Dept of Conservation camp money).

The area was planted at two working bees – with plants coming from LOCA, Rotorua Lakes Community Board for the stream side area (RLC Reserve) and the larger area of the RLC Reserve from TipuWai, Scion and the 1 Billion Tree Fund.

We also had another planting on the Dept of Conservation side of Millar Road stream, with plants from Bay of Plenty Regional Council and DOC. There were also infill plantings in other reserves such as Tikitapu SR and esplanade areas (adjacent to Calder Road and Loop Road) and a tidy up with some new plants at the Hall gardens – thanks to Rotorua Lakes Council for the plants. In total over 3000 plants have gone into the ground in reserves around Lake Ōkareka this winter!

A huge thank you to all of the volunteers who came to help with the plantings during winter – many people expressed how lucky they felt to be able to be out in the open air, enjoying the company of others and making a difference to the environment around Lake Ōkareka.



Sandra Goodwin
Landcare Ōkareka
slgoodwin.nz@gmail.com

Animal Trapping Crew: the Landcare Ōkareka volunteers continued with trapping work over winter and into spring. In recent weeks another 4 new trapping lines have gone into the Millar Road / Boyes beach wetland area. Timms traps have also been deployed at strategic times to trap possums in some of the trapping areas. Many possums have been removed, along with trap catches by the boxes and DOC 200's – rats, mice, hedgehogs, mustelids (stoats and weasels). The numbers of volunteers looking after traps is also growing – thank you to everyone involved with this work. The nesting wetland birds will appreciate all of your efforts.



Health and Safety talk to some of the Landcare Ōkareka volunteers before a planting in the Dept of Conservation area of Millar Road wetland – August 2020



Planting on the far side of Millar Road bridge, DOC area

During the spring representatives from Landcare Ōkareka have attended Annual Meetings with staff from Dept of Conservation, Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Rotorua Lakes Council to go over annual work plans with each authority.

Now that spring is here LO volunteers are involved with undertaking weed control in the newly planted areas, as well as keeping an eye on previous plantings for weeds. This work continues right through the growing seasons of summer and into autumn.

Long Tailed Bat Monitoring: this work continued over summer and autumn and the monitors were pulled out as weather cooled down. Covid-19 Lockdown provided one LO volunteer with quiet time to undertake analysis of the bat data. As a result a comprehensive report was prepared and presented to DOC with a simpler version going to BOPRC and some of the property owners who had bat monitoring taking place on their properties. The Lake Ōkareka catchment does have quite a lot of long tailed bat activity, when conditions are suitable for them. Work plans and targets have been set for this year's monitoring which is already underway. Ongoing pest control will definitely support these cute little native mammals.

There will be one or two working bees held before the end of this year. We are pleased to say that we have new volunteers coming along each time. We welcome anyone who would like to come and lend a hand. Lake Ōkareka and its public conservation environment would look nothing like it does without all of the hard work of the Landcare Ōkareka volunteers over the years. Thank you to everyone who has helped over the last 12 months or so.

We wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. Maybe we will see you again in 2021 – watch out for the Landcare Ōkareka signboards which announce each working bee. Or contact me if you would like to be added to the email list of volunteers.

Sandra Goodwin

Sandra Goodwin - Landcare Ōkareka



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

Lake Ōkāreka Volunteer Rural Fire

It is hard to believe we are at the tail-end of 2020 after what has proven to be a challenging and disruptive year. Lake Ōkāreka Rural Fire has largely had to scale back its training activities this year due to the fluctuating COVID-19 levels. However, with the recent move back to Level 1, operational activities have resumed with a record number of members, including a good number of new young recruits who joined at the beginning of the year. Fortunately, their enthusiasm has remained despite the restrictions and we are now getting training back on track heading into the summer fire season.

On that note, please be aware that, as of 1 October, we have moved into the Restricted Fire Season which requires open fires to be permitted. Please be vigilant over the summer months with fire restrictions and permits, and check the conditions and any restrictions in force on the day of your permitted burn. To check the season status for your location, please visit www.checkitsalright.nz or call 0800 658 628. Further information about fire seasons is available on www.fireandemergency.nz.



New station with exterior finished. Photo Credit: Dave Herries



Interior of appliance bay. Photo Credit: Dave Herries

With the upcoming fire season, readiness of fire personnel for potential fire deployments is paramount. Chris Scoggins and myself delivered training in the use of Avenza GPS mapping to 40+ fire personnel from around the country in Eltham. Dave Herries, as part of the National Incident Management Team, also helped to co-ordinate a recent regional simulated training exercise. International deployments did not go ahead over the winter in response to the extreme fires in the United States. This was due to challenges with the COVID-19 situation overseas



Recent scrub fire SH30. Photo Credit: Dave Herries

The annual Sky Tower Firefighter Stair Climb, which was due to take place in May, has been rescheduled to now take place on 21 November. Unfortunately, due to this revised timing, the majority of our participants are unable to take part. However, all money raised to date will still be donated to Leukaemia and Blood Cancer New Zealand. Hopefully, the 2021 event will run more smoothly.

Work on the new fire station has progressed significantly with completion of the building and hand over to the brigade due to take place mid-December. An Open Day for the community is being planned for 30 January and the official opening ceremony will take place mid-March. Communications regarding the Open Day will be sent out closer to the time. If there are any community groups who are interested in using the new station building for a meeting venue, please contact me on 021 890 508.

In the meantime, we wish the families within the Lake Ōkāreka and wider Rotorua community all the best for the upcoming festive season.

If you have been thinking about joining and would like to see what we are about, please phone me on 362 8874. You can also go to our website: www.Ōkarekaruralfire.com

Phil Muldoon

Phil Muldoon -Chief Fire Officer

PREDATOR FREE ŌKAREKA

Update: November 2020

Kia ora koutou, welcome to the Ōkareka Backyard Trapping Project. Our goal is to make a big impact on the pests that are hiding in our own backyards and in doing so boost the native flora and fauna that make Lake Ōkareka such a beautiful place to live.

Since the last e-newsletter we have had many residents get in touch who are keen to get on board and contribute. It has also been amazing to make connections with people who are already working hard for our community.



- So far, we have 38 traps in the community which is fast approaching our initial goal of 50 traps.

There are many ways to get involved and not all of these include trapping;

1. Get a trap by emailing tsbell.nz@gmail.com (email any catches you get or upload them directly to [Trap.NZ](https://trap.nz))
2. Already trapping??? Let us know so we can add you to the [Trap.NZ](https://trap.nz) project.
3. Sign up to the 'Okareka Backyard Trapping' Facebook page to share tips and stay connected
4. Volunteer with the project in whatever capacity you can
5. Tell a neighbour, especially if they don't live here all the time (we can check the trap for them)

We had a stall down at the Lake Tarawera Spring Fair over Labour Weekend. It was a busy and very successful day with our amazing helpers from Room 1a at Lynmore School. Who provided info boards, banners, Ruru boxes and their own decorated rat traps. A massive thanks from us to the students (and teacher, Amy Garrood) that turned up on the day to help run the stall, their knowledge and passion for conservation was fantastic.



Subsidised rat and possum traps are available for residents.

\$8.00 for a T-Rex easy set rat trap and tunnel. \$15 for Trappinator Possum traps.

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



Photos of Lynmore Class 1a at the Spring Fair



Tikitapu Pest Control Project

In spite of Covid -19 restrictions the 2020 Tikitapu Pest Control programme has been completed as planned. Mike Goodwin, our Health and Safety representative made changes to our Community Group Health and Safety Management Plan relevant to Covid-19 restrictions. With the co-operation of volunteers, this enabled us to carry out the pest control programme with only minor changes to some early working bees. All bait was removed from the bait stations in early September and post bait monitoring was carried out in early October.

For control of rats this year, we used Diphacinone bait blocks in the Philproof stations which have been modified to exclude possums by the addition of baffles. A rope leading into the bait station was added this year to give the rats easy access into the stations. Use of the bait blocks meant that bagging the bait consisted of counting out the number of blocks instead of weighing them and also volunteers could count the number of blocks left in the stations instead of estimating the weight of bait left giving a far more accurate result.

For control of possums, we used Feratox® bait bags emptied into Romark bait stations. With rats unable to get bait from the Romarks and possums no longer able to get bait from the Philproof stations, we are confident that our baiting is far more targeted now and we can greatly reduce the amount of bait we use.

Monitoring results:

Rats – pre-baiting 58% reduced to 14% post-baiting

Marsupials – pre-baiting 26% increased to 28% post-baiting

A total of 59 adult possums plus 2 juveniles and 7 adult wallabies plus 1 juvenile were found dead by the bait stations.



Frances Blakely
Forest & Bird
jandfblakely@gmail.com



Photo Credit: www.doc.govt.nz

Perimeter traps:

So far we have had good results from the DOC 200s and the Sentinel traps which were put in place this year around the perimeter of the pest control area to replace the Goodnature traps. Up until the end of September the new traps have killed 50 possums, 154 rats, 17 mice, 9 stoats, 3 hedgehogs and 1 cat. In comparison, for the whole of 2019, the dead bodies recorded at Goodnature traps were 44 rats and 29 possums.

As usual, the caution period for the reserve will continue until the signs are taken down, approximately 4 months after the stations were cleared at the beginning of September. This time is required for the complete decomposition of the carcasses and degradation of any remaining bait. Until the signs are removed please do not touch any carcasses or bait and remember to keep dogs out of the reserve at all times.

Each month, volunteers carry out checks and maintenance of the Mistletoe Track and the Nature Walk. This project could not be carried out without the commitment from our volunteers. We are extremely grateful to all of those who participate.

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

Frances Blakely

Frances Blakely Email: jandfblakely@gmail.com
Nell Ranson Email: nell.ranson@xtra.co.nz



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Lake Ōkareka Preschool News



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

The children have enjoyed their visit with Catherine Ward from the Heart Foundation as we have been presented with our pā-Haraheke Healthy Gold Heart Award. Catherine presented our renewed certificate and gave us a lovely lime tree for our Community garden.



Catherine from the Heart Foundation



Getting our certificate healthy heart gold award renewed

The children are really enjoying cosmic yoga with Jamie who introduces her story with many yoga moves some new and some familiar. We have been busy planting our vegetables again and caring for our gardens. It is great to see the extension of the planting beyond the existing Community Garden as our friends of the Preschool have done a great job clearing and planting feijoa trees.



Planting our vegetables



The children enjoying movement and fun with the parachute



Spring fair



Andrew Witters Gisborne freshly squeezed orange juice.

Tarawera Spring Fair: The Preschool had a stall at the Fair on Sunday of Labour weekend and sold many bees wax kai wraps, worm fertiliser, grapefruit marmalade and beautiful freshly squeezed Gisborne orange juice. We raised funds of \$1055 to pay for the children's outdoor wet weather gear. Thank you to everyone for their support.

Ambulance Educator: We have an educator from Saint John's coming out to deliver their children's programme on emergencies.

Lake Ōkareka Preschool and LOCA Nativity play and community picnic: It is nearly that time again and we are planning our Nativity play to held on Friday 4th December. We ask if all the children could arrive by 5.45. The play will begin at 6pm and following this there will be a picnic at Preschool with refreshments. Families are invited to come along bring their own picnic dinner and refreshments.

This years Christmas and Nativity Show 6pm 4th December 2020 @ Preschool

The children will be asked to make a non perishable food donation to go in our food box for the Salvation Army families in need again this year.

Preschool will close for the year on December 11th and we will return on Monday 1st February.

For all enquires please contact Debbie office@lakeokarekapreschool.co.nz

See our Facebook page and website www.lakeokarekapreschool.co.nz

Merri Kirihirote The Preschool teaching team and Board wish you all a very safe and happy Christmas.

Debbie, Davina, Leslie

The Teaching team Debbie Leslie and Davina
and Board of Lake Ōkareka Preschool



Rat Bait and Bait Stations

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

Ditrac rat bait provided by Bay of Plenty Regional Council is, once again available to individual property owners, to support enhancing the biodiversity at Lake Ōkareka. We are especially interested in getting even more lake side properties involved with rat bait stations. We believe that we are seeing the benefit of both the rat bait programme on private land, as well as the trapping programme in the lake side reserve areas.

If you are interested to have a bait station on your property, but maybe feel that you do not come to your property often enough to keep the bait station full, please contact us. We may be able to work out a partnering system with someone who lives here permanently, and is prepared to keep your bait station filled.

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

Bait stations are available by contacting Mike and Sandra Goodwin 362 8865 or email slgoodwin.nz@gmail.com We have a type of lockable bait station available, like a small suitcase. They also have locating pins for the bait. Cost of these is \$20

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

How do I get bait now? Bait is available in labelled, zip lock bags, containing 24 rat baits. This is enough bait to fill one bait station 4 times over a few months. Bait stations should usually not be filled more than twice during a month, otherwise you are wasting bait and feeding potentially dead rats and mice.

If you require the bait or a lockable bait station for \$20, please contact Mike & Sandra Goodwin phone 362 8865, 2 Pryce Road or Rod Stace phone 362 8523, 30 Summit Road.



Sandra Goodwin
Landcare Ōkareka
slgoodwin.nz@gmail.com

CONTRIBUTORS

You are invited to the 45th Dr Ron Caughey MEMORIAL YACHT RACE

Lake Ōkareka New Year's Day 2021

Anyone with a yacht - keep the afternoon free.
Starts at Boyes Beach and sails around Lake Ōkareka.
Sailing in the race requires the wearing of a life vest.
Each sailor will take responsibility for themselves and their boat.
It's a good idea to get to Boyes beach by 1.30pm,
Health and safety briefing 1.40pm and race start 1.50pm
P class on handicap. Entries on the day. All welcome
Come out for a fun time on the water!

We look forward to seeing you there.



Lakes Specialist – Jenny Donne



Jenny Donne
Lakes Consultant

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LōCA Historical Records Project



Tim Bell
LōCA Historian
tsbell.nz@gmail.com

We are gaining momentum here at the LōCA Historical Records department. Thank you to all the people that have been in touch since the last newsletter went out. As mentioned previously we are looking for any old photos, trivia and especially memories from times gone by, at this wonderful place we call Lake Ōkareka.

A big thank you to our first contributor Grant Cunningham for kindly supplying the following memories. Enjoy!

Being a direct descendant of George Court, my memories go back to the late 1940's, early 50's. I was told that grandfather George read an advertisement in the New Zealand Herald in 1937, that Somerset Playne was selling sections around Lake Ōkareka. He travelled to the Lake and was able to view the plan and scope for the lakeside sections. He predicted the best spot would be at number 1 Rainbow Crescent (now Calder Road) but that, if the lake was to rise above a certain level, the access drive would be underwater. He then settled on the 2 sections that span 7-9 Rainbow Crescent.

Building was completed in 1939 and the family were blessed with this amazing holiday home, situated lakeside in the "bowl of sweetness". A few years later, the then Managing Director of Farmers Trading Company (Sir William Calder Mackay), purchased 1-3 Rainbow Crescent, which was then rebranded as Calder Road in recognition of this respected owner.

Grandfather George died in 1946, the year I was born. My mother Mollie Cunningham (nee Court) and husband Richard (Dick) Cunningham eventually assumed ownership of the property.

As school children, I and my siblings (Barry, Adrienne, Suellen and Grant) were collected from school and transported to Lake Ōkareka. The first boat I can remember was a 16 foot clinker, powered by a four and a half horsepower Seagull outboard. Trout were plentiful and in beautiful condition, 5 pounders plus were the norm. The best lure was a "penny" spinner, the size of a penny, red on one side (in the spoon) and copper on the back.

Before the roads were tar sealed, we prayed for rain to wash out the pumice Loop Road, at the end of the school holidays, which would see us stuck until the grader came out from Rotorua.

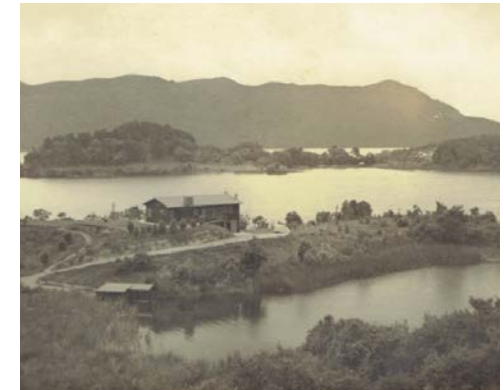
The "store" was situated at the northern end of Calder Road on the corner of Loop Road, run by King and Queenie Chappell. This was eventually moved to its last position and taken over by Rose and Peter Campbell.

In those days, most of the homes were owned by non-residents, who travelled from Auckland, Hawkes Bay, Poverty Bay, Taranaki or Wellington. Firm friendships were made, which even resulted in subsequent marriage for some. The Cunningham's, Winstone's and Humphries' properties still remain in family ownership to this day.

Sure enough, in the early 60's, the lake rose by over 2 metres and stayed flooded for over 2 years. Number 1 Calder Road had to use our drive to access their property (George Court was right!). There were photos in the paper of residents in the lower part of Steep Street who had to row out to hang clothes on the line. Thanks to the generosity of the Playnes, a siphon system was installed in "the gap" which allowed Ōkareka water to drain into Tarawera faster than natural resources allowed. We lost 2 boatsheds which had been underwater for those 2 years, subsequently never rebuilt.



Aerial View - Cunninghams House Center Left (Image courtesy of Martin Caughey)



Mackays Original House 1 Calder Rd (Rainbow Cres.) (Image courtesy of Martin Caughey)

We have been fortunate to have retained ownership in our 4 siblings' names. The property has been maintained pretty much in its original condition with the original Lysart's iron (ex Australia) on the roof and rough sawn kauri weather boards.

The extended family is now enjoying 6th generation occupation with the 4 siblings, their 11 children, 27 grandchildren and one great grandchild continuing enjoyment of this special place. We are indeed blessed.

Our goal is to create a database of historical information so that it can be accessed by locals both in the present day and for future generations to come.

We have a physical space to keep items as part of LOCA or we can scan and digitise photos and documents to be kept online so you can hold onto the originals.

Anyone that is interested in contributing to this project please get in touch with Tim Bell (tsbell.nz@gmail.com, 02102636141, 5 Branch Road).

Jim Bell

Tim Bell, Lake Ōkareka

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Pou Whenua for the Royal's Property

Tēnā koutou katoa.

We, the Royal Whānau, descendants of Ngāti Uenukukōpako and Tūhourangi, our marae tūturu are Ruamata and Pīkirangi both located at Rotokawa.

As descendants of Tūhourangi (Ōkāreka) and Ngāti Uenukukōpako (Rotokawa), we are committed to the well being of our land and lakes Ōkāreka and Rotorua.

For the past 70 years as owners of the land along Ōkāreka Loop Road, we as a whānau confirmed our kaitiakitanga by erecting 3 pou whenua at the corner of the Tarawera and Ōkāreka Loop Rd. intersection, the gateway to the Ōkāreka catchment.

These 3 pou whenua show our kaitiakitanga, and affirms and symbolizes our acknowledgment and commitment to uphold the mana of the Tūhourangi iwi.

For the whānau, the pou represent the Past (centre), Present (right), and Future (left) - see photo below. Only the pou representing the past, has a humble carving on it. They were carved by Te Puia's master carver and tutor, Taparoto Nicholson.

Buried directly beneath each pou is a mauri stone to further strengthen our commitment. These are: Greenstone, connecting us to our tipuna and representing our past, our whakapapa, our values and our customs, Pumice, connects us to our current whenua and Obsidian, which comes from Tarawera maunga, and was found on the shores of Lake Ōkāreka. Like the obsidian, our commitment for our future remains solid and firm.

The pou were erected on the 16th April 2019 (see second photo) by nephew Richard Sturm (right) and local Ian Bowyer (left), and unveiled on the 24th April 2019 by local resident and Tūhourangi Kaumatua, Wairangi Jones, in front of whānau and friends.

Tai Royal

Tai Royal - Lake Ōkāreka

CONTRIBUTOR



Tai Royal
LŌ Historian
tai@okareka.com



Whānau member and local Keri Pewhairangi holding Te Tuhimāreikura Moengarau Pewhairangi-Charlie. She is our first great-grand child. Unveiling 24th April



Whānau member Rich Sturm (left) and Ian Bowyer - planting of the pou. 16th April 2019.



Sandra Goodwin
Landcare Ōkareka
slgoodwin.nz@gmail.com

German Wasp Trapping

Wasps are an on going problem every year around the area. There are things that you can do to try to lessen the problem by having wasp traps on your own property. There are different types of traps that you can purchase from hardware stores. They look a bit like old fashioned bee hives. Some have holes underneath or on the sides that the wasps enter, and in theory are not supposed to get back out of. They either use a proprietary lure or just sugar water to make them work. The wasps get caught inside the trap and drown. These traps do have to be maintained regularly and when the weather is warm the fluid will need topping up almost daily, but they do work.

The earlier in the spring that you can use these traps the better, as they remove queen wasps that are setting off after winter to form new wasp nests. But they can be used to trap wasps all through summer and autumn as well.



German Wasp

You can also make your own traps from 2L soft drink bottles. Just cut off the neck, invert and staple the bottle to the inverted neck. Fill with fruit juice or some kind of sugar water – DO NOT use HONEY!

Or you will trap bees! Attach to a post or tree in your garden. We used these types of traps at the DOC camp one summer when we were looking after it. We were seeing 14 of these traps filled with wasps every 2 – 3 days! The wasps were really bad that particular year.

Good luck with having a go at wasp trapping. The more people within the village that give this a good go, the better it will be for everyone – just the same as for rat baiting or trapping.

Sandra Goodwin

Sandra Goodwin
Landcare Ōkareka



Michelle Herrick
LŌCA Editor
runningmichelle77@gmail.com

Letter from the Editor

What a year! I think we all deserve a long, hot summer with plenty of family time and lake swims. Time for children, bbq's, snoozes in the sun and time on or in the water. We are blessed to live in such an amazing spot.

My oldest boy is in room 1a at Lynmore and they have been doing some amazing work with Tim Bell creating a Pest Free Lake Ōkareka. The trapping and mapping of traps has been significant and their stand at Tarawera Spring fair was impressive.

Hopefully we see a lot of you at the BBQ on the lake on the 27th Nov. Have a wonderful Christmas and happy new year.

Michelle Herrick

Michelle Herrick - LŌCA Newsletter Editor



Photo Credit: Michelle Herrick



Lake Statistics (Water Quality Attributes)

Lake	Trophic Level Index		National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) Lakes Attributes				10 Year Trends				Contact Recreational Attributes		
	TLI 2019/20 [*] (TLI Target)	TLI 3 Year Avg	2019/20 Total Nitrogen Median	2019/20 Total Phosphorus Median	2019/20 Chl-a Median	2019/20 Chl-a Max	Improving	Indeterminate	Worsening	Water Clarity	Blue-green health warning	Cyano-bacteria Biovolumes 2017-20	Swimming water quality – faecal ²
Ōkareka	3.0 (3.0)	3.3	A	A	B	A	■	■	■	■	N/A	N/A	Good
Okaro	4.5 (5.0)	5.0	C	C	C	B	■	■	■	■	Yes	C	Good
Ōkātina	2.6 (2.6)	2.7	A	A	A	A	■	■	■	■	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rerewhakaaitu	3.6 (3.6)	3.9	B	A	B	A	■	■	■	■	N/A	N/A	Good
Rotoehu	4.4 (3.9)	4.8	B	B	C	C	■	■	■	■	Yes	C/D	N/A
Rotiti	3.7 (3.5)	3.8	B/B	C/C	C/B	B/B	■	■	■	■	Yes	A	Excellent
Rotokakahi*	3.5 (3.1)	3.6	B	B	B	B	■	■	■	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rotomā	2.2 (2.3)	2.3	A	A	A	A	■	■	■	■	N/A	N/A	Excellent
Rotomahana	3.6 (3.9)	3.8	B	B	B	A	■	■	■	■	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rotorua	4.1 (4.2)	4.2	B/B	B/B	C/C	B	■	■	■	■	No	A	Poor
Tarawera	2.7 (2.6)	2.8	A	A	A	A	■	■	■	■	No	N/A	Excellent
Tikitapu	2.8 (2.7)	2.9	B	A	B	A	■	■	■	■	N/A	N/A	Good

^{*}italicised figures are based on Te Wairoa Stream monitoring and a three-parameter TLI (no Secchi disk)
^{*} No sampling occurred for March to May 2020 due to COVID lockdown; an average of February and June is used to supplement this missing data.
² NPS-FM Human contact attribute based on 95 percentile E.coli during the bathing season.

What is The Trophic Level Index?

The Trophic Level Index is a number used to indicate the health of lakes in New Zealand. As a general rule of thumb the higher the number, the worse the water quality in the lake.

The number is calculated using four separate water quality measurements – total nitrogen, total phosphorous, water clarity, and chlorophyll-a.

National Policy Statement for Freshwater Attributes

To protect ecosystem and human health, attributes are measured to help determine the extent to which specific values are provided for. There is a range of different physical, chemical, microbiological and ecological attributes, and one attribute may apply to more than one value.

Attributes are graded A-D (E), with the National Bottom Lines set for some attributes. 'A' indicated ecosystems are healthy and resilient, or low risk to human health; to 'D' aquatic communities are in a persistent degraded state, or risk to human health from contact recreation is high.

Contact Recreation















Bathing and contact recreation sites are monitored during Summer throughout the Rotorua Lakes, to inform the public when and where it is safe to interact with the water. Not all lakes, or all bathing sites can be monitored, so popular and culturally significant sites are prioritised. Sites can be graded from Poor to Excellent based on attribute statistics in the NPS-FM.

Cyanobacteria are monitored in lakes with a history of algal bloom activity. Health warnings are issued by Toi Te Ora based on the volume of potentially harmful cells in the water, and sites are graded according to the NPS-FM.

A	Excellent
B	Good
C	Fair/Moderate
D	Poor



Lake Statistics (Ecological Attributes)

Lake	Lake Submerged Plant Index ¹				Kōura		Kākahi		Catfish	
	LakeSPI	LakeSPI Native Index	LakeSPI Invasive Index	Invasive Submerged Plants Present	Abundance	Trend  Improving	Abundance	Trend  Stable	Abundance	Trend  Worsening
Ōkāreka	High	B	C	d	Moderate ³		Present ³	N/A	Absent ⁵	N/A
Okaro	Moderate	C	C	c	Absent ³		Absent ³	N/A	Absent ⁵	N/A
Ōkātina	Moderate	B	C	c,d	Abundant ⁴	N/A	Present ³	N/A	Absent ⁵	N/A
Rerewhakaaitu	Moderate	C	C	b,c,d	Present ⁴	N/A	Present ³	N/A	Absent ⁵	N/A
Rotoehu	Moderate	C	C	a,c,e	Moderate ²		Moderate ³	N/A	Absent ⁵	N/A
Rotoiti	Poor	C	C	a,b,c,d	Moderate ²		Abundant ³		Abundant ⁵	
Rotokakahi*	Moderate	C	C	c	Moderate ⁴	N/A	Abundant ³	N/A	Absent ⁵	N/A
Rotomā	High	B	B	d	Abundant ³		Abundant ³	N/A	Absent ⁵	N/A
Rotomahana	Moderate	C	C	a,b,e	Absent ⁴	N/A	Absent ³	N/A	Absent ⁵	N/A
Rotorua	Moderate	C	C	b,c,d	Moderate ¹		Abundant ³		Common ⁵	
Tarawera	Moderate	C	C	a,b,c,d,f	Abundant ²		Abundant ³	N/A	Absent ⁵	N/A
Tikītapu	Moderate	C	C	d	Moderate ⁴	N/A	Absent ³	N/A	Absent ⁵	N/A

*based on 2018 and 2019 LakeSPI survey data.

Invasive Submerged Plants: a) *Ceratophyllum*; b) *Egeria*; c) *Elodea*; d) *Lagarosiphon*; e) *Potamogeton crispus*; f) *Ranunculus trichophyllus*

¹ Seasonal monitoring; ² Spring and Summer monitoring; ³ 5-10 yearly monitoring; ⁴ Baseline survey only; ⁵ Observational data only.

Lake Submerged Plant Index (Lake SPI)

The LakeSPI programme monitors macrophytes (aquatic plants) which are used to classify the ecological condition of lakes. The ecological status of a lake can be characterised by the composition of native and invasive plants.

'LakeSPI' index is a synthesis of components from both the native condition and invasive impact condition of a lake, and provides an overall indication of lake condition. The higher the score the better the condition.

Kōura and Kākahi Monitoring

Kōura and Kākahi monitoring is carried out by Dr Ian Kusabs of Kusabs and Associates Ltd. Kōura monitoring is undertaken on all the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes. Regular kākahi monitoring surveys are carried out in Lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti to monitor the long-term effects of lake restoration initiatives on kākahi populations in the shallow littoral zone of these lakes.

Catfish Monitoring

Catfish were first detected in Lake Rotoiti in March 2016 and in Lake Rotorua in December 2018. Surveys have been undertaken to detect their presence in the other lakes. So far they are limited to Lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti.

A	Excellent
B	Good
C	Fair/Moderate
D	Poor





Lake Ōkareka Tennis + Netball Update

2020/2021 Annual Subscription (\$100) is now due. Thanks to all those members who have already paid their \$100 sub. Payment is requested into the Clubs' Westpac A/c 03-1552-0130369-00. Reference "Sub" family name. Please e-mail confirmation of deposit to craigk@bfa.co.nz. This covers the period 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2021.

Coaching for children on Friday afternoons (from 30 October 2020)

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

Court Access

A new gate with a keypad is currently being quoted for. All members will be advised of the new code once completed.

Club House

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

Adult Tennis

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

Craig Kilmster

Craig Kilmster - 027 455 9301



Photo Credit: Lake Ōkareka Tennis Club

CONTRIBUTORS



Craig Kilmster
Chairman
 Phone 027 455 9301

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If you would like to pay by direct credit, the bank account number for the Lake Ōkāreka Community Association is: Bank: Westpac Rotorua, Account No: 03 1552 0115767 00

Please include your Name and Lake Ōkāreka Property Address in the reference field.



Photo Credit: Adrian Hodge Photography



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

Accommodation: Ngamihi Lodge Luxury Bed and Breakfast, 6 Pryce Road Lake Ōkareka, 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.

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