

# Lake Ōkāreka

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

*Newsletter*  
*Oct 2023*

INSIDE NEWSLETTER

EL NIÑO

GOLDEN CLAM

NE FACE PROJECT

TRACK UPDATE

WINTER FISHING COMP

The Newsletter of the Lake Ōkāreka Community Association (Inc.) (LŌCA)  
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**Disclaimer Statement:**

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



*No lifejacket No excuse*



# Anita Martelli

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## Lake Okareka

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## Chair's Report Spring 2023

**Kia ora e te whānau, As we step into the spring season, I wanted to provide you with an important update on some key matters going on in our community in the upcoming months. Summer is just around the corner, and it promises to be a scorcher. The LōCA team are active in making sure we provide ongoing support to both the community and to our visitors in the campgrounds.**

### El Niño – The Little Boy

Meteorologists are predicting a hot and dry summer for Lake Ōkāreka and the surrounding areas. While this is fantastic news for those who enjoy spending time outdoors, it also presents some challenges, particularly when it comes to fire safety, lake levels and water conservation. We must all be vigilant and prepared to ensure the safety of our community. We know what a wet summer was recently like. Expect that to reverse.

### Community Safety and Civil Defence

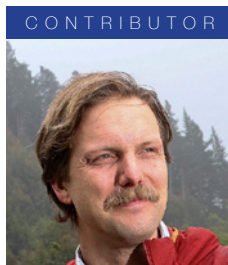
A reminder to report any incidents as you see them. We lobbied to have effective tools, such as ANPR licence plate recognition cameras at either end of the village. These are not effective if people are not reporting. Camera's do not reduce or report crime, they only record it, and need your input.

Use Ten Five (105) to report things that don't need urgent Police assistance and 111 for anything more serious.

We are also working through a Civil Defence Plan Update for the community, spearheaded by the Lake Ōkāreka Volunteer Fire Brigade. This will be a tool for reference and action in the event of any major disaster. We only can look to the recent events on the East Coast during Cyclone Gabrielle at how suddenly these can happen.

### Golden Clam

The golden clam *corbicula fluminea* has only been discovered in the Waikato River last few months and now moved up to Mangakino. Its method of dispersal is incredibly invasive, each clam spawning 400 viable offspring per/day which is 70,000 per/year. Not only can it have effects on infrastructure in water but untold impact on native filter feeding populations including kākahi. MPI with Te Arawa Lakes Trust are rolling out information on this clam and we must do our best to support the enforced messages of Clean, Check and Dry. This applies to all equipment that is coming over to the lakes. We need to do our bit to preserve the biodiversity of our lakes. Responsible boating starts before you put your vessel in the water and we must not take the privilege of using the lake lightly.



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

### Te Ara Mātaratara

The walkway around Lake Ōkāreka is one step closer to completion. Taking advantage of the forecast good weather, the conditions are perfect for trail building.

The name "Te Ara Mātaratara" has been gifted for this section by mana whenua. The name has history with Tangaroamihi, the original chief in the area. When he heard that Ngāti Tama, who was living on Pukeroa [Hospital Hill] had killed his pet taniwha, Kataore, Tangaroamihi asked his followers this metaphorical question: "Ko wai rā tōku hai tua i te rangi kia mātaratara? Who of mine will fell the sky, so that [Ngāti Tama] will feel the intense cold?" The act was a declaration of war and subsequent battles had the ancestors of Tūhourangi retreat seek refuge in Ōkāreka before a later victory. Multiple sites in Ōkāreka carry Māori names, both old and new. Names will connect us to these oral histories.

I would like to thank the ongoing support and patience of the landowners; the Department of



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BOPRC FieldMaps identified pest plants within road reserve.

Conservation and the Playnes Family, as well as the community in coming to realise a vision over 40 years in the making. Special thanks also to Rotorua Trust who have contributed \$75,000 to the completion of this track.

We were encouraged by community feedback to see more conservation efforts in the Lake Ōkāreka Scenic Reserve and that in addition to recent \$25,000 funding approved from BayTrust, more LŌCA funds are now directed to here. With more access for monitoring, trapping, baiting and a pending funding application we will be well placed to add additional value to the original walkway proposal and create better outcomes for vegetation and wildlife within the Reserve. Further information is available on the lakeŌkāreka.org website.

#### Pest Tree Removal

Preserving the native flora and fauna of Lake Ōkāreka remains one of our top priorities. To that end, we are continuing our efforts to remove pest trees that threaten our unique ecosystem. Using the

BOPRC GIS mapping tool, we have been able to locate, identify and tag trees and pest plants within the road reserve in need of immediate attention, and we will be conducting removal operations where safe and practical – with the approval of the adjacent landowners.

Not all non-native plants are pest plants and some on private property may have been planted with purpose for privacy or special memory. We want to target those that have self-seeded, in particular eucalypt, cherries, dogwood and wattle. Please be aware that there may be temporary disruptions in some these areas during the removal process where they involve chainsaws, but the long-term benefits will be well worth it.

That's probably enough for this letter. There's a lot going on and we are working towards many other outcomes, advocating on behalf of the community. All in addition to our usual busy lives.

As we move closer to summer and these important community initiatives, I encourage each and every one of you to stay informed, engaged, and involved. If not with our work, but the work of the many volunteer organisations within the catchment. Our community thrives when we work together, and your participation is invaluable.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to the Lake Ōkāreka Community. Let's make this upcoming summer safe, enjoyable, and memorable for all. Our AGM is set for Thursday 2nd November, 7pm at the Lake Ōkāreka Volunteer Fire Brigade Station. Look forward to seeing you there.

*Mitch*

Ngā mihi nui,

Mitch Collins

Chair - Lake Ōkāreka Community Association

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## Lake Ōkāreka Volunteer Fire Brigade

**There have been multiple changes within the brigade in the past few months. I was nominated chief in February by our members. I joined 18 years ago and have held various roles, from firefighter, crew leader, station training coordinator, secretary, and treasurer. I grew up in Lake Ōkāreka before moving to Wānaka, Auckland and London. I work as a paramedic for St John Ambulance, and I returned to Ōkāreka at the end of 2018. I want to offer our support and station to anyone in the community or any community group for meetings and events.**

Phil Muldoon stepped down as chief in February after 20 years in the role but is still actively involved in the brigade. He said it was time for a break but was then deployed to Canada in June for six weeks, working 12-16 hours a day. While Canada experiences fires every summer, this year's wildfires have scorched at least 17.5 million hectares (175,774km<sup>2</sup>) of land, ten times more than in 2022, for comparison, Te Ika-a-Māui the North Island is 113,729 km<sup>2</sup>. As of the 20th of September, there were still 906 active wildfires, and 522 of those were deemed "out of control".



Kierin Oppatt  
**Chief Fire Officer**  
027 777 5130

New Zealand is moving into its first El Niño summer since 2016, which is forecasted to be one of the strongest in 80 years. Hotter, drier, and stronger westerly winds than usual are expected this spring and summer, increasing the risk of drought and fire. Rural property owners can prepare by clearing gutters and vegetation, improving property access, and ensuring they have a plan of action.

We are looking to recruit new volunteers in both operational and non-operational positions. We have volunteer firefighters who respond to emergencies and non-operational volunteers who look after the station equipment, lawns, and gardens. We need more volunteer firefighters and non-operational volunteers to manage vehicles, equipment, uniforms, and stores. Please contact me if you are interested or have experience in these roles.

Over the past six months, our callouts have been relatively quiet. However, on the 8th of July, a serious motor vehicle crash occurred on Tarawera Road. Four teenagers lost control of their car and crashed head-on into a tree at high speed. Unfortunately, they weren't wearing seatbelts and suffered severe and permanent injuries, which could've been prevented. We cannot stress the importance of wearing seatbelts. Thanks to those in the community who assisted before the emergency services arrived.

Rotorua Civil Defence contacted me to write a community response plan for civil defence emergencies. The plan identifies local hazards that may affect the Lake Ōkāreka community and outlines what the community can do to ensure that individuals, households, and businesses are prepared, can respond and remain self-reliant for at least three days without any outside assistance if an emergency occurs. A few potential hazards in the community include severe weather events, wildfires, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. Once the plan is completed, it will be presented to the community by Civil Defence and LOCA at the fire station. LOCA will email out the meeting date and time for those interested.

Feel free to contact me via email at [kierin.oppatt@fireandemergency.nz](mailto:kierin.oppatt@fireandemergency.nz) or phone 027 777 5130.

*Kierin*

Kierin Oppatt  
Chief Fire Officer



## Spring Harbour Master Report

We have certainly had some beautiful days recently, announcing the arrival of spring and hopefully providing a window for what we can expect this coming summer (thank-goodness last summer is now a distant memory).

Our Maritime Team is gearing up for a busy season with our seasonal patrol training underway and most of our sign and navigation aid audits complete. This means everything in the lake is ready for summer!

Each weekend we are seeing more boaties, paddleboarders and kayakers turning out for a freshwater dose, so it's a great time of year to be reminded of some key safety messages.

Front of mind for me is the need to have lifejackets with you. If you are on a kayak or paddleboard you **MUST** have a PFD (Personal Floatation Device - more commonly known as a lifejacket) with you. There are lots of options these days with inflatable PFD's being very comfortable and hardly noticeable when on.

Around the Lakes, the weather can change very quickly and paddleboards particularly susceptible to wind (especially the inflatable versions). With wind and waves these boards can easily become unstable and flip, and potentially blow away.

Last week we had to assist three people on the lakes that had been caught out with rising winds and rough lake conditions. It was cold and their energy levels were getting low. This incident was a frightening reminder how quickly things can go wrong and why a little safety planning prior to hitting the water just may save your life. Frankly it astounds me why paddlers would not take a lifejacket and wear it. As we saw last year, with two paddler fatalities, a lifejacket can literally be the difference between living and dying if the unexpected happens.

Maritime NZ have recognised the need for more education in both the paddleboard and kayaking space and produced two very good publications which I highly recommend. These can be found easily on the Maritime NZ website (search Paddlecraft).

For those who enjoy using SUP (Stand-Up Paddleboard) around the lake, especially inflatable SUP, it's highly advisable to be wearing a leash that connects you to your board. The last few paddlers we have spoken with haven't had leashes on their board, which raises concerns should they fall off in windy conditions as they may be permanently separated from their board. For the best advice, make sure you read the Maritime NZ guidelines and let the basic safety messages be part of your checklist prior to heading out.



Roly Bagshaw  
**Senior Maritime  
Officer - Lakes**  
0800 884 880

As always, there are many topics to cover this time of year. For boaties the focus should be primarily on Boat Readiness. Checking your boat from front to back, making sure you cover off your vessel checks prior to heading to the lake. Ensure your outboard servicing is up to date, EPIRB tested, flares are current, two forms of communication onboard and you have enough PFD's for everyone and they are of a suitable type and fit.

Our Harbourmaster Patrol Team will be back on the lakes very shortly to make sure everyone we come across is following the rules. Please come and say hello and feel free to ask any questions.

The team want to see everyone enjoy the Lakes safely and of course return home with great memories. Fingers crossed for lots of sunshine, let's make this summer the best and safest one yet.

*Roly*

Roly Bagshaw  
Senior Maritime Officer (Lakes)  
Bay of Plenty Regional Council



### Jenny Donne - Lakes Specialist

Jenny appreciates that buying and selling real estate can be complex, sophisticated and often deeply personal. Providing excellent customer service comes naturally to her as she has a commitment to work hard, listen and follow through. Her quality service builds healthy, positive relationships with clients and effective communication means she's able to maintain those relationships.

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Justine Randell  
Lakes Operations  
Officer  
0800 884 880

## BOPRC Lakes Operations Report

We have had our fair share of rain over the last 15 months, as can be seen by the high water levels in our lakes around the district. Some lakes have had their highest recorded levels since the early 1970s. If you've taken a drive to Whakatāne in the last few months, you would have noticed Lake Rotomā has caused flooding of properties and the State Highway has almost been inundated. Lake Rotoehu has also had its access road to Otautu Bay cut off from SH30 making it a long trip for those residents if commuting from Whakatāne or Rotorua. These high lake levels have certainly been a challenge for a lot of residents, farmers and landowners, businesses and others who have their livelihoods based around the lakes.



Fortunately, for Lake Ōkāreka, such flooding has been kept at bay due to the recently upgraded pipeline and erosion protection works that have been carried out over the past few years. Despite this work and the consented flow maximum of 500 litres per second (0.5m³/s) for Lake Ōkāreka (compared with previous consented flow of 239 L/sec), we have struggled to keep the level of Lake Ōkāreka in its consented operating range since the 'rains' began in June 2022. In fact, in just the last two weeks with the more settled weather we have been receiving, the lake has only just fallen within the top of the operating range of 353.900m. You can see this in the graph below, including the steady flow of 500 L/sec for most of Winter 2023. Without the ability to run the higher flows, Lake Ōkāreka would have been at risk of flooding like Lakes Rotomā and Lake Rotoehu, lakes that also have no natural outlet.

If you have any questions and concerns around this work, please do not hesitate to contact me: Justine.Randell@boprc.govt.nz.

*Justine*

Justine Randell  
Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana

## Lake Ōkāreka Community Association Annual General Meeting (LōCA AGM)

Thursday 2nd November 2023 7.00pm in the Lake Ōkāreka Community Hall. All property owners and people living at Lake Ōkāreka are welcome to attend.

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

These nominations are needed 14 days before the AGM – emailed to loca.secretary@gmail.com by Thursday 19th October 2023, 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 Mitch Collins**  
loca.secretary@gmail.com

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

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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>

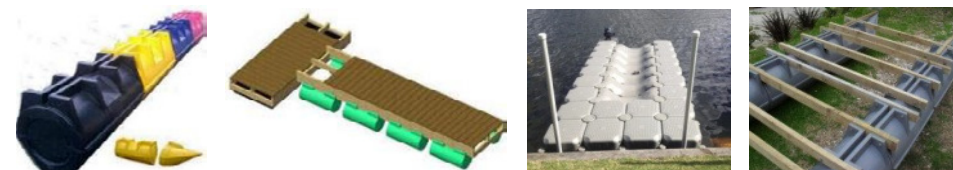
Also on the page is reference to the Bay of Plenty Regional Navigation Safety Bylaw.

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.

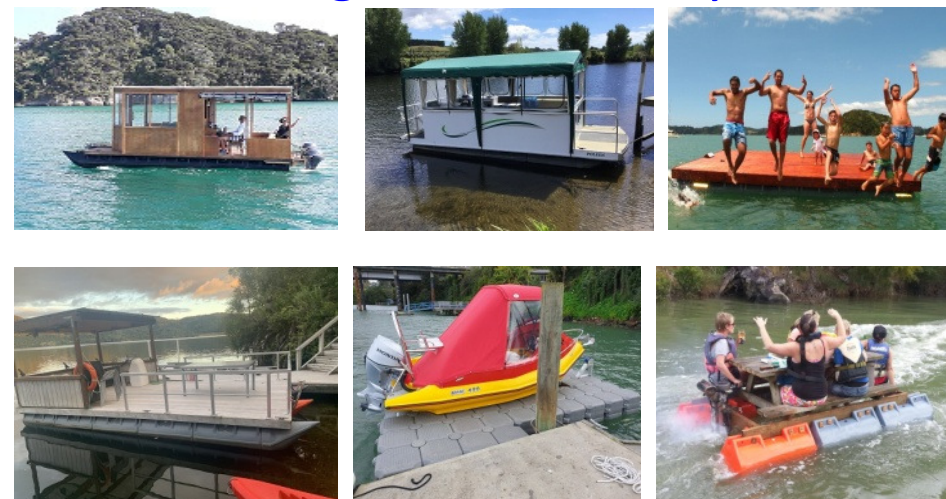
If you have any questions about the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Program email [rotorualakes@boprc.govt.nz](mailto:rotorualakes@boprc.govt.nz)

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## Forest & Bird Update

### October 4: Branch Meeting Branch Meeting: Guest speaker: Sam Purdie

Sam is a keen herpetologist, science educator, award winning wildlife photographer, and author of "A Naturalists Guide to the Reptiles and Amphibians of New Zealand"

### Wednesday October 4

Netherlands Society Hall: Neil Hunt Park, Tarawera Rd 7:30pm Supper to follow. Koha appreciated but not required

### Branch activities

Tikitapu Care Group: The team has been active over the winter with checking bait lines and traps as well as keeping up with the pest animal control programme. Thank you to everyone involved with organising the working bees, walking the tracks, manning the radios, providing refreshments, keeping records and doing the myriad other jobs that help keep the Tikitapu Scenic Reserve alive and well.

### Kiwi Conservation Club

You'll remember that a few months ago we put our KCC branch into recess. We're pleased to tell you that we now have a new Coordinator who is keen to get things going again.

Molly Chattell grew up in Rotorua, has lived and worked overseas and is now back here with her husband and two young sons. She is also a primary school teacher and experienced at running events involving children. It's great to have you on the team, Molly.

### 2024 Calendars and Diaries

The calendars and diaries have arrived. If you placed an order, you can collect your goodies at the branch meeting on October 4.

We look forward to catching up with you at the branch meeting. Nga mihi,

*Linda*

Linda Johnson  
Committee member  
F&B Rotorua branch



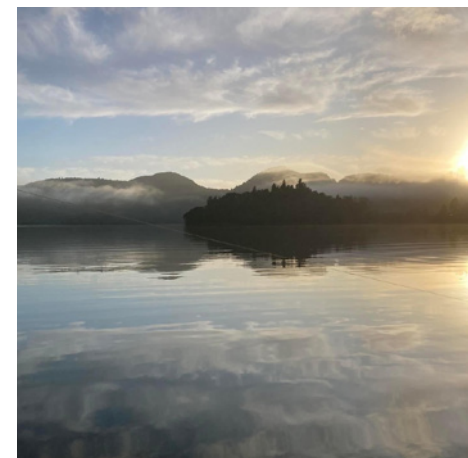
Linda Johnson  
**Forest & Bird**  
Rotorua.Branch@  
forestandbird.org.nz

CONTRIBUTOR

## Winter Fishing Competition 2023

July 22nd saw the annual Lake Ōkareka Winter Fishing Competition. After a couple of slim years numbers were up again with 75 entries. With over 20 of these as Junior anglers. The event was held over a single day with plenty of sunshine enjoyed out on the water. It was great to see so many families down at the Village Hall to take part in the prize giving celebrations in the afternoon. Fish weights and numbers were up across all prize categories compared to last year with a total of 70 fish being weighed in.

A big thank you to Marine Tech, Armstrong/Alderton Whanau and Hunting and Fishing Rotorua for contributing to the prizes.



### Congratulations to the prize winners for 2023:

Biggest Fish Mens - Scott Tamblin (2.16kg)  
Biggest Fish Womens - Portia Janes (1.47 kg)  
Biggest Fish Jnr - Jasper Herbert (1.9 kg)  
Biggest Bag Team - Team Whare (12 fish)

Biggest Bag Family - Herbert Family (7 fish)  
Biggest Bag Jnr - Holly Bowyer (3 fish)  
Biggest Bag Individual - Paul Ware (8)  
Best Condition Factor Jnr - Arthur McGovern (49.16)



Tim Bell  
**LōCA Local**  
tsbell.nz@gmail.com

CONTRIBUTOR

## Tikitapu Pest Control Project

Margaret Dick  
**Forest & Bird**  
0274202022

The Tikitapu Forest & Bird Care Group is well on the way to completing the 2023 toxin operation in Tikitapu Scenic Reserve. From May to July volunteers checked bait stations and cleared access along bait lines and monitoring lines, remarking the routes where necessary.

Pindone pellets were put into the 153 Philproof bait stations in early August, and topped up after two weeks. Bio Bags containing Feratox® (a cyanide product) were distributed at the same time. Three weeks later, on 10th and 11th September any remaining bait was removed. A cautionary period continues for several months after the removal of bait and the perimeter warning signs will remain in place until DOC give permission for their removal. This is dependent on the decomposition of two caged possum carcasses; likely to be between 3 and 4 months.

Pre-operation monitoring for rats and marsupials took place in mid-July. Post-operation monitoring,



Volunteers gather for the safety briefing before heading into the bush to distribute toxin.

to determine the success of the toxin distribution, will be at the end of September.

In addition to these work days a small, dedicated team have been diligently dealing throughout the year with windfalls, and working on eradication of some of the invasive weeds (particularly Taiwanese cherry trees).

In September a number of native trees were planted into clearings in the vicinity of the Mistletoe Track. Volunteers were assisted by staff from the Bay Trust (which has provided grants towards the conservation activities in Lake Ōkāreka) who enjoyed a day out participating in the work.

The two nationally threatened native mistletoe species in the reserve are thriving, to the extent that a steady replacement of host trees is needed. Mistletoes are parasites of their host trees and will eventually kill them. Seed from some of the Tupeia plants will shortly be collected for translocation to Pirongia where there is a mistletoe restoration project.

The traps that are deployed around the perimeter, and through the centre, of the managed area are checked twice monthly throughout the year and have yielded the following results for 2023 from January to August: rats 188, possums 72, stoats/weasels 8, mice 39, hedgehogs 13.

Our thanks to all the volunteers who, in many and varied ways, contribute to the success of this project.

## Margaret

Margaret Dick  
Ph: 0274202022  
Rotorua.branch@forestandbird.org.nz



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## Lake Ōkareka Preschool News

We wished our Daddys, Uncle, Grandpas and more a very happy Father's Day.

Our tamariki were busy making rainbow glasses topped of with a windmill.



Preschool has been busy with lots of work going on. Our community orchard has had an upgrade with thanks and support from both LOCA and Preschool. Great mahi carried out by Kim Curtis and her team from Natural Garden Care we can highly recommend their work.



Before



After



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

If you look closely, you will also see our new windows to the outside world in our back fence. Our tamariki are having fun watching the world go by. A big thank you to Tim Bell and Jeff Isacs from JPC for making this possible.

Preschool contact 362 8606, email [office@lakeOkarekapreschool.co.nz](mailto:office@lakeOkarekapreschool.co.nz).

[www.lakeOkarekapreschool.co.nz](http://www.lakeOkarekapreschool.co.nz) Like us on Facebook and see what other adventures we have been up to.



Your Teaching Team,

*Leslie, Davina and Megan*





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WAYS TO CALL FOR HELP**



**TELL SOMEONE  
ONSHORE YOUR PLANS**



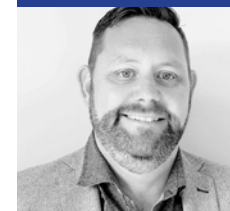
**Kia Mataara**

Know the ways of the water  
before you let go of the land

MAY 2022 / SBQ SUP



CONTRIBUTORS



Craig Kilmister  
**Chairman**  
Phone 027 455 9301

## Lake Ōkareka Tennis Club

2023/24 Season Subscription is now due and is increasing to \$120pa. This fee covers the period 1 October - 30th Sept 2024. Your sub gives your family court access for 12 months. Please pay into the tennis club account - Westpac account number: 03 1552 013036900 Ref: 'SUB' and family name. Please email [craigk@bfa.co.nz](mailto:craigk@bfa.co.nz) confirmation of your payment so we can send you the new gate code.

### Coaching for children on Friday afternoons

Term 4 Coaching Sessions are available for members' children on Friday Afternoons, Guy Beamish runs our fun sessions. The club subsidises these lessons so minimum numbers are required to run these groups.

Starting Friday's Oct 27th-Dec 8th running for x7 Sessions \$50 per term - please pay into club account REF: 'Lessons' & Child's Name. Session times are approximate - they will depend on number/ages of children enrolled

1. 4pm (<7yrs)
2. 4:45pm-5:30pm (8-9yrs old)
3. 5:30pm-6.15pm (10yrs+)

Come and be social with your kids, sausage sizzle held on the clubhouse deck (weather dependent!)

Text Shanon Garden if you are keen to join in, or just turn up! Ph: 021414664 / 0273400544

Adult tennis lessons are possible if there is enough interest, let us know if you are keen. Social tennis for adults is on Thursday afternoons, pop down for a hit around from about 5pm. Clubhouse Hire: This modern facility is available to anyone in the community to hire. Please contact Craig on the email above.

AGM - to be held in Nov, date to be confirmed.

## Craig

Craig Kilmister - 027 455 9301



Photo Credit: Lake Ōkareka Tennis Club





Sandra Goodwin  
Landcare Ōkareka  
slgoodwin.nz@gmail.com

## Landcare Ōkareka Winter 2023

It is some time since we last reported on Landcare Ōkareka activities to the community. It has been a very busy time for the volunteers with lots of work happening in the catchment.

### Millar Road / Boyes beach wetland:

Following site preparation in late summer that was carried out in the northern end of the Millar Road wetland (Department of Conservation area) thanks to TipuWai, "Chewy" the remote controlled mulching machine driven by Ashley, and their work paid for by LOCA (Thank you to all involved), along with a lot of manual work by volunteers, Landcare Ōkareka planting was undertaken over June and July 2023.

Thank you to Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Department of Conservation for funding the plants for this area. Thank you also to our local Tuhourangi kaumatua, Pererika Makiha for coming to bless the land, the plants and the volunteers before planting began.

### Bamboo Control Work:

Throughout the summer and autumn stalwart Landcare Ōkareka volunteer Brian Law at times assisted by other LO volunteers, diligently worked away at cutting and pasting the cut stems of the second area of bamboo, adjacent to the compound of the Te Waiariki Pūrea Trust recreation shed. A strip of bamboo remains until such time as TWPT decides about their boundary fence. In the meantime all of the cut bamboo has been mulched by "The Specialist" Thomas Rika, assisted by a crew of Landcare Ōkareka volunteers. Thank you to Lake Ōkareka Community Assn for funding the mulching. LO volunteers will continue to monitor this site and the earlier site, watching out and dealing with any bamboo regrowth.



*Planting in northern section of Millar Road wetland area, a blessing of the land, the plants and the volunteers by Pererika Makiha.*



*"The Specialist" Thomas Rika mulching the cut bamboo stems.*

### Long Tailed Bat Monitoring:

This monitoring project has continued 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 has been interesting to see what effect the on going wet weather had on the bat activities this year. A report has been presented to Dept of Conservation on the latest findings and also logged into the National Bat Data Base. Long tailed bats continue to have a significant presence in places at times, within the Lake Ōkareka catchment. It will soon be time to begin this work again. Our thanks to our enthusiastic and knowledgeable LO volunteer Steve Goodin for all of his dedicated on going work in this area.

### Hosting Treeline Team:

Back in July 2023 Landcare Ōkareka hosted the people from Treeline Nurseries, from Kaharoa on a team building day. They undertook some planting in the Millar Road wetland area and also went to visit several areas in the catchment where plants from their nursery have been planted over the last 15



*The team from Treeline Nurseries planting in the Millar Road wetland area, July 2023*

### 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.

– 20 years. They visited areas of the Millar Road that had been planted earlier, the Tikitapu Scenic Reserve opposite the fire station, and most significantly the Lake Ōkāreka Scenic Reserve area around and above the pumping station on Loop Road. When this area was planted back in 2011 an episode of “Country Calendar” that was made about Diane Coleman, then owner of Treeline Nursery. The crew from Treeline had watched a recording of that programme the week before they visited. In the following 12 years the growth of those plants has just been extraordinary. It was a lovely chance for LO volunteers to celebrate with the Treeline crew, 20 years of successful environmental restoration in this catchment.

#### 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.



Forest & Bird and Landcare Ōkāreka flags flying at the Lake Ōkāreka Fire Station when we hosted Bay Trust personnel to the area.

#### Hosting the team from Bay Trust:

Thanks to Gregg Brown, Landcare Ōkāreka and Rotorua Forest & Bird were very happy to host the team from Bay Trust to Lake Ōkāreka a few weeks ago. The team came to help plant some larger NZ tree species such as rimu, totara, tawa and rewarewa in the Tikitapu Scenic Reserve, which Bay Trust had kindly donated to Landcare Ōkāreka and Rotorua Forest & Bird.

#### 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:

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



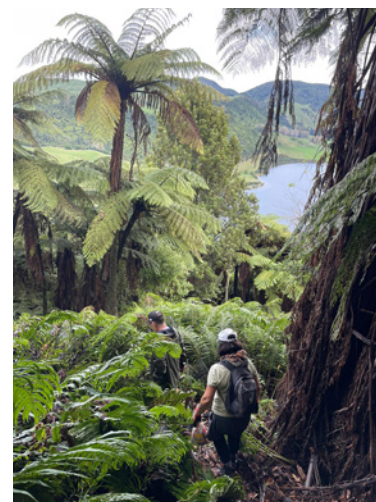
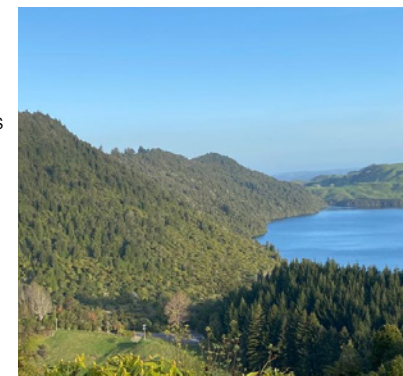
Colin Jackson  
Lake Ōkāreka  
021306378

## North East Face Restoration project

On the NE side of the lake there is 80ha of DOC reserve that forms the backdrop to the most stunning views of the lake. From a distance it looks like thriving native bush. However up close it is clearly under pressure from possums browsing the canopy, wallaby grazing the understory and rodents, mustelids & feral cats preying on birds and lizards. Left unchecked, this area of bush is at risk of collapse.

Until recently there has been no pest control in this area, probably due to difficult access and steep terrain. Now a small group of committed eco warriors led by Darren van Hoof and Kim Lorigan have initiated a program supported by LOCA to restore the bush & bird song.

110 kill traps have been installed. The traps are serviced every 2 weeks with kills recorded on the Trap NZ app. Monitoring with tracking tunnels is already showing reduced rodent and mustelid numbers. While good progress is being made it was disappointing to find many of the traps tampered with and rendered ineffective over the school holidays. We are hopeful that it was a one off.



Going forward a wallaby proof fence and use of bait stations and drones are tools that could be used to eradicate pests from this iconic area. LOCA has been successful in securing a \$25k grant from Bay Trust to support this work.

If you are fit & able and would like to be part of the solution for restoring and maintaining this area of bush to its former glory then contact Darren 0278117037, Kim 021831200 or Colin Jackson 021306378

*Colin*

Thanks  
Colin Jackson



## Bio Security Update Golden Clam

Golden Clam, or *Corbicula fluminea*, was first discovered in May 2023 in the Waikato River near Karapiro. Since May, Golden Clam have been discovered across a 93 kilometre stretch of the Waikato, establishing themselves as far upstream as Mangakino. This new pest in such close proximity to the Te Arawa lakes poses a huge threat to our freshwater ecosystems and the taonga species which call these ecosystems home.

In response to this new biosecurity threat, the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has declared Golden Clam an unwanted organism, meaning it is now illegal to knowingly transport this pest out of the Waikato River. Ngāti Tarāwhai Iwi Trust have also closed access to Lake Ōkātina in the wake of this new threat, a decision which MPI have supported by placing a Controlled Area Notice over Lake Ōkātina. At this time no other closures are in place, however Te Arawa Lakes Trust is considering implementing a rāhui as an interim measure to raise awareness and uphold kaitiakitanga responsibilities. Te Arawa Lakes Trust alongside Bay of Plenty Regional Council has increased the number of Biosecurity Officers checking boats and trailers and are working with local hapū and schools to spread awareness.

Te Arawa Lakes Trust and Bay of Plenty Regional Council have also conducted surveillance in all of our lakes and determined our lakes to currently be free of Golden Clam. In order to prevent the spread of Golden Clam, all vessels, fishing gear, and freshwater equipment must be thoroughly checked for the presence of aquatic pests, cleaned using hot water or bleach solution and completely dried before entering another waterway. Full instructions for the Check, Clean, Dry process can be found on MPI's website.



Golden Clam

"Our dedication to raising awareness about the threat of the gold-clam across our Te Arawa Lakes system is resolute and we have been working collaboratively with various agencies to manage this invasive pest by holding hui-whakamōhio (information-sharing meetings) to enhance awareness and knowledge-sharing. Te Arawa Lakes Trust is steadfast in its mission to empower marae, hapū, iwi, and communities with scientific knowledge and evidence to support their existing foundational

knowledge of whakapapa and mātauranga Māori." Says Te Arawa Lakes Trust newly appointed Chief Executive, Dr. Daryn Bean.

"Informed decisions are crucial to crafting sustainable solutions that will ensure the longevity of our Rotomoana lakes system for future generations and our primary focus centers on enabling the restoration and protection of our water systems and taonga species, always

### Aquatic weeds

Aquatic weed control will take place in late October-November 2023 in Lake Ōkāreka. Monitoring has been completed by Te Arawa Lakes Trust's scientific dive team in late September, who found good results from our last round of weed control and only scattered, isolated pest aquatic plants rather than the dense weed beds which once blanketed the lake bed. In addition to this reduction in aquatic pest plants, our dive team observed some areas of thriving native aquatic plants which provide habitat for many of our native taonga species. Dates and locations of aquatic weed control will be finalised in October and released to the public prior to undertaking control works. Letters will be distributed to all adjacent landowners and signage erected at each control site to inform the public.



Scientific Diver Cory O'Neill monitoring for aquatic weeds

### Catfish

Surveillance on Lake Ōkāreka has confirmed no catfish are present. The Catfish Killas programme is still active on Lake Rotoiti and Lake Rotorua, educating schools and the wider community about this pest and the danger of spreading them to other waterways. Catfish spawning season is beginning now and catch numbers are gradually increasing as the catfish become more active after the winter. M.Sc. Student Amohia Peka is working with NIWA to investigate production of sterile male catfish as a biocontrol method.



Catfish from Lake Rotoiti.

Email: [koreromai@tearawa.iwi.nz](mailto:koreromai@tearawa.iwi.nz)  
Facebook page: Te Arawa Lakes Trust  
Phone: 07 346 1761



## 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 traps located around the community. 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.

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 rewarded the children with pizza and a fun outing. To date those have included trips to Motion 10 pin bowling and the trampoline park and the movies. 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 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.

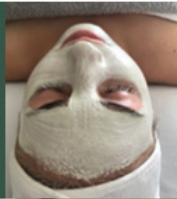
**Ian Bowyer:** Lawn mowing, upholstery and home maintenance, phone Ian 027 376 9482

**A Touch of Elegance Beauty and Nails:** Phone Vana on 021 074 2070 - Lake Ōkareka'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 Ōkareka by Carol. To view phone 07 3628 878.

**Baby Sitting:** We have two lovely teenage girls who are used to managing children and helping around the home who are looking for baby sitting or pet minding duties Briana 020 41872724

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