

# THE NEWSLETTER

Lake Okareka
Community Association (Inc.)

Website Address: www.lakeokareka.org

July, August and September 2013

#### of the

#### Lake Okareka Community Association (LOCA)

#### Issue 3, September 2013

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#### DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

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



The front cover photo is the Lake Okareka Fishing Club Committee (standing left to right Jason Douglas, Steve Lyons, Dean Foster) with 2013 Winter Competition sponsor Sean Bowyer of Telfer Marine.

#### CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE—SEPTEMBER 2013

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Greetings from the LOCA committee and a big thank you for the excellent response we received to our **Survey** in the last Newsletter to proposals to tidy up the lake front and address safety issues affecting all users of the area and in particular, children and young adults over the summer months. We now have a clear mandate to discuss with the District and Regional Councils Harm's suggested improvements to the lake front and also suggestions from the Harbour Master to minimise the possibility of accidents to children playing, swimmers and boaties. Any changes such as moving the weed cordon entrance nearer Acacia Rd and a placement of a pontoon will likely be on a trial basis and will be a Council decision, not a LOCA decision.

Recently released **Water Quality** statistics show Lake Okareka with a slightly improved TLI reading and it being stable. As it is now three years since the septic tanks were removed an improvement was to be expected as this action (very expensive action for property owners) was estimated to remove 30% of the lake pollution. However we will never have a **Clean Lake** until there is land use change to the 600ha of pastoral land in the catchment which is contributing 70% of the pollution of the lake. It is interesting to note that the TLI targets for other lakes in the area are as follows:

Lake Tikitapu	2.7
Lake Okataina	2.6
Lake Tarawera	2.6
Lake Rotoma	2.3
Lake Okareka	3.0

We plan to ask the Regional Council to revisit the Okareka Action Plan that was put in place 10 years ago as in today's world residents expectations are much different and I'm sure few of us are comfortable leaving a polluted lake to our children and grandchildren.

As you will see from Sandra's report **Landcare Okareka** have been very busy and the long awaited walkway from Boyes Beach to the DOC campground appears to be not too far away, but the red tape involved has been much more involved than anticipated and not helped by the restructuring of DOC.

The recent filming of a planting working bee at the pump station by the Country Calendar TV programme will be great publicity for the area and of course a feather in the cap for Sandra and Mike and their team. The programme is likely to go to air later in the month.

The Regional Council are now actively considering the options to upgrade the **Outlet Pipes** and alternatives such as a weir. The initial Engineers' Report for this work dates back to 2008 but hopefully we will see some action shortly which should give much better control and reduce the erosion caused by the high lake level in recent years.

As always we welcome feedback from the community on anything Okareka and suggestions for our Newsletter and in particular old photos and history of the area.

Geoff Palmer Chair

#### LAKE OKAREKA WATER QUALITY RESULTS 2012-2013

Recently the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme tabled the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme Annual Report for 2012 – 2013. This is a very comprehensive report, and is available on the new Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes website or you could contact LOCA Chairperson or Secretary for a copy.

The results for Lake Okareka tabled in the report states that the TLI for 2013 is at 3.15, an improvement from 2012 TLI which was 3.35. The target for the lake is 3.00.

The report also states that "All parameters showed an improvement in Lake Okareka's water quality resulting in an improved TLI result for 2012 – 2013."

The report shows improvement in many of the Rotorua lakes TLI figures. A comment which has been made by several observers, is that the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes area has experienced an exceptionally dry last 9 months or so covering summer, autumn and winter. They say it will be interesting, if the climate becomes wetter again, to see what happens to the TLI figures for the Rotorua lakes.

If you are interested to read an electronic copy of the full report please contact either Geoff Palmer 362 8379, email <a href="mailto:geoff.palmer@xtra.co.nz">geoff.palmer@xtra.co.nz</a> or Sandra Goodwin 362 8865, email <a href="mailto:sgoodwin@actrix.co.nz">ggoodwin@actrix.co.nz</a>.

# The Lake Okareka Volunteer Rural Fire Force

It's good to see that spring is here and the days are starting to get longer again.

The Lake Okareka Fire Force members have been busy over the winter period attending a number of training courses covering the fire environment, fire behaviour, crew leader skills and responsibilities, and fire safety.

Further training courses taking place over the next few months include First Aid, working with helicopters, refresher training for current members and induction for new recruits.

We are also planning to conduct training in the defensive control of structures and vehicles. It would be handy if there was anyone in the local area or someone you know who has a structure that could be used to assist us with this type of training.

We are currently seeking to increase our membership due to a number of members being away at university during the year and the departure of Thomas Kjaer who has returned to Denmark following completion of his internship in New Zealand.

Now that we have a reliable fire appliance, owned by the community, this will be made available to assist with local community events including pre-school fundraisers and certain private events.

On another note, please don't forget to check your smoke detectors and change the batteries when Daylight Savings starts.

For anyone wanting to contact the Fire Force, please phone me on 362 8874 or go to our website: <a href="www.okarekaruralfire.com">www.okarekaruralfire.com</a>.

Phil Muldoon
Chief Fire Officer



Breakfast Lunch Dinner

Ph 348 8818 www.Capers.co.nz

# PILATES

# BEGINNER-INTERMEDIATE LEVEL 10 WEEK COURSE STARTS THURSDAY 17TH OCTOBER 6.30PM

## OKAREKA HALL



'One of the major results of Contrology (Pilates) is gaining the mastery of the mind over the complete control of your body'

Joseph Pilates, Return to Life, p.19

#### PILATES GOALS & BENEFITS

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Enhance Flexibility, Mobility & Coordination

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#### LAKE OKAREKA TENNIS CLUB

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Daylight saving starts on 29 September 2013 so it is time for tennis. Come and play!

#### Subscriptions 2013/2014 year:

These are due as at 1 October. The new season's subs remain at \$100 for the whole family. The committee believes this is exceptional value for a family membership. Payment is requested into the account of the Club at Westpac Bank account number 03 - 1552 - 0130369 - 00. It is essential you e-mail confirmation of the deposit to avoid any unidentified deposits. It is also necessary for you to include in your e-mail current contact details including mail, telephone and e-mail details. A key will be sent to you. The lock at the court will be changed on 1 October and new keys issued.

#### Spring coaching for children:

Coaching for children starts Friday afternoon 18 October and runs for eight weeks including 25/10 which is Labour Weekend – due to the number of w/e before Christmas. The cost is determined by the number attending. If we have the 35-40 children we had last season then the cost will remain at about \$55.

#### By Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> October could you please:

- · Register your interest and
- · Advise the number of children you wish to attend and
- · Their age and
- Which session they are likely to attend (4pm to 4.45 up to 7 years; 4.45 -5.50 up to 9 years and 5.50 7.00 over ten years)

Once we have confirmed numbers the cost shall be confirmed and you will, in turn, be asked to confirm the attendance of your child or children.

#### AGM:

This is scheduled for 25 October at 6pm.

#### **Weekly Tennis:**

With daylight saving starting on 29 September, weekly adult tennis starts on Wednesday 16 October from 5.30 pm.

Contacts for the Tennis Club: John 362 8282; Hongli 362 8106; Gert 362 8835 or johnbattersby@xtra.co.nz



# THINKING OF SELLING THEN TALK TO SOMEONE COMPELLING!!!

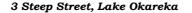
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180 Kawaha Point Rd. Rotorua 3010

3 September 2013

Steve Chadwick

#### **RE: Our Lakes Journey to Recovery**

I have attended the Rotorua Lakes Strategy Group meetings this year to remain informed of the many aspects of the programme that are being strategically managed. I also attended the LWQS AGM and the seminar on Transferable Development Rights.

I have pledged to lead the Te Arawa Lakes water clean up programme if elected to be your Mayor in October. I want the public to be even more involved and will look at mechanisms that can make input into the programme even more open to the public and interested parties.

I am aware that the next stage of the programme moves to the broader issue of total catchment management of the land and land use systems developed from "best practice" to reduce 100 tonnes of nitrogen from the land.

There is a Cabinet paper that proposes a change of use of the current committed funding for just this purpose. Hopefully that will be signed off by the end of the year. The next phase is the hard end of the programme and I believe that together we can do this and also have a viable dairy and sheep and beef sector in this District. The Lakes Journey is the most fantastic story of communities working together under one programme to make a difference. I congratulate Geoff and the Okareka Community Association for your ongoing passion, commitment and effort to making this place a jewel in our crown.

I look forward to working with you all and the Community Board. Thank you Brentleigh for your untiring commitment. We wish you well.

Yours truly,				

#### TREAT ALL POISONS WITH CARE

In the last issue of the newsletter Mike Goodwin highlighted an incident with dogs being poisoned with brodifacoum. Apparently this issue has occurred again. I'd like to reinforce Mike's concerns.

Brodifacoum is an excellent product for killing rats, but like all poisons it needs to be treated with care and you must follow all label instructions precisely.

- All rat poisons <u>must</u> be used in bait stations. The bait station should be robust enough to prevent animals such as dogs from ripping them open and ideally the bait should be held captive within the station. Block baits with a hole in them are ideal as they can be threaded onto a rod or wire which will prevent rats from taking them out of the station where other animals may access them.
- It is not ok to broadcast rat bait directly onto the ground.
- When handling poisons always wear the personal protective equipment recommended on the label (e.g. gloves) and wash your hands before touching food or smoking (the latter is a bit ironic given the toxins you will inhale from a cigarette...but hey that's your choice).
- Store unused bait in its original packaging; locked up away from food and animals
- When bait shows signs of deterioration dispose of it, along with the packaging, in accordance with the label instructions.

The Ditrac rat bait, which Mike mentioned in his article, is less accumulative than 2<sup>nd</sup> generation anticoagulants like brodifacoum so it poses less risk to pets but...it is best to treat all poisons with the same care and always follow the label instructions. While looking after the environment, remember to take care of yourself and others (including pets).

Keep up the good work.

Dale Williams | Land Management Officer (Biodiversity) | Bay of Plenty Regional Council | Rotorua, New Zealand | Ph: 0800 884 881 x7575 | Web: www.boprc.govt.nz



#### TIKITAPU SCENIC RESERVE PEST CONTROL PROGRAMME

It is lovely to see the spring flowers and blossoms and to hear the birds in the village. The comments we hear confirm the benefits of the pest control project with the increase in the bird life and flourishing Mistletoe.

During the winter volunteers have checked and trimmed the bait lines ready for the pest control commencing in September. If anyone is able to help get the bait out we would be delighted to hear from you. It is a case of many hands make light work. Volunteers do need to be reasonably fit and able to carry a pack.

The Mistletoe and Nature walks have been checked each month by those on the roster – our thanks to them.

#### Programme for remainder of 2013

Friday Sept 13th and Sunday Sept 15th - Pindone baits out.

Saturday Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> and Monday Nov 4th - top up all stations as required with Pindone and place non toxic Ferafeed strikers at marked positions.

Friday Nov 15<sup>th</sup> and Sunday Nov 17<sup>th</sup> – remove non toxic strikers and replace with Feratox® strikers.

Sunday Dec 8th and Monday Dec 9th - clear all stations and remove remaining strikers.

Saturday Dec 14<sup>th</sup> to Saturday Dec 21st - monitoring.

New volunteers are always welcome and if anyone is interested in being involved in the pest control programme, or going on the roster to check the Nature and Mistletoe walks please let me know.

Frances Blakely Phone: 3628 480

Email: blakelys@xtra.co.nz



# Key Facts about Rat and Possum Control in the Tikitapu Scenic Reserve



The Tikitapu Forest & Bird Care Group with the approval of the Department of Conservation plans to reduce possum and rat numbers over approximately 150ha of the Tikitapu Scenic Reserve (see map)

Why we are controlling Possum and Rats?

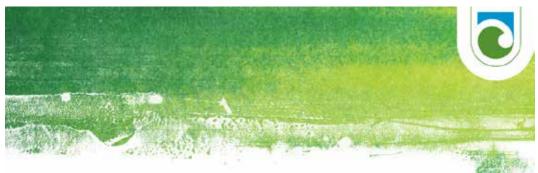
The objective of this work is to protect the native mistletoe within the reserve and to increase native bird numbers which disperse the mistletoe seeds. The work is also undertaken to protect and restore the ecosystem in general in this area for all native plants and animals.

This possum and rat control operation is part of an ongoing programme undertaken by Tikitapu Forest and Bird Care group to reduce pest numbers in one of the Area's well known and well used reserves. This will reduce possum browse and predation allowing the forest and in particular the native mistletoe population to recover.

Possums and rats are known to negatively impact on ecosystems by preying on young birds, eggs and invertebrates. They compete for food and generally have a destructive impact on the habitat. Possums can damage mistletoe by browsing and consuming seeds and fruit.



Published by: otorua Lakes Area Office - Department of Conservation 99 Sala St, Rotorua. June 2013



#### What has been decided so far?



Using a network of approx 150 bait stations (see left photo) placed along bait lines within the operational area, it is intended to reduce possum and rat numbers using Pindone cereal baits to target rats and Feratox® Strikers to target possums (see right photo). Research shows bait stations to be an effective and targeted form of possum and rat control. Feratox® Strikers will be nailed to trees at 50 metre intervals along bait lines, to target possums this year, and Pindone pellets to target rats will be placed in the bait

stations. Feratox® Strikers contain Ferafeed, a non toxic paste appealing to possums and contain a Feratox pellet, which is a controlled substance and will be handled only by certified operators.

#### Operational planning

The use of this pesticide requires the consent of the Medical Officer of Health and any advice that they provide is incorporated into the operation. In addition, the Bay of Plenty Regional Council and the local authority (Rotorua District Council) must be advised. The Department of Conservation also has an internal approval process to ensure the operation run by Tikitapu Forest and Bird Care Group is meeting the Department's Quality Management standards for pesticide use.

These consents entail a detailed assessment of the risks involved in the work. Before approvals are granted, a satisfactory means to manage these risks has to be shown. (This is called an Assessment of Environmental Effects and if you're interested, a copy for this operation can be viewed at the Department of Conservation, Rotorua Lakes Area Office.) Conditions applied to this operation further safeguard the public and the environment. The Tikitapu Forest & Bird Care Group will consult those surrounding landowners affected by this operation prior to the baiting operation commencing. This will involve considering their concerns and needs regarding the

operational method and its timing. Other people who have a general interest in the area will be notified using this

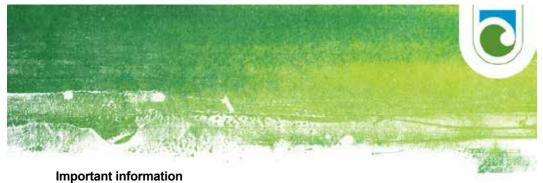
#### **Timeframe**

fact sheet

The Pindone ® poison will be placed in bait stations on or just after the 13th September 2013. Bait will be topped up as required and Ferafeed non toxic strikers placed at 50m intervals along bait lines on or just after 2nd November 2013. Ferafeed strikers will be replaced with Feratox® strikers,(cyanide) on or just after 15 November 2013. Uneaten poison bait will be removed from the bait stations by mid December. Possum and rat numbers will be monitored during this period to assess the effect of the baits. These dates are indicative and may change due to factors such as bad weather. Warning signs will be placed immediately prior to the operation starting and removed when the caution period is over which is around the end of April.

Published by: otorua Lakes Area Office - Department of Conservation 99 Sala St, Rotorua. June 2013

Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawbai



The pesticides used are effective and safe when properly handled. The use of bait stations allows for the pesticide to be made available to target pest species while at the same time restricting accessibility to native and non-target species. However there is a risk of poisoning to humans and non-target animals such as dogs if the bait is handled carelessly or eaten. Poisoning can occur through eating baits or poisoned animals.

The risk to dogs from pesticide in carcasses will remain until the carcass have decomposed, which can be up to or more than six months.

These risks can be eliminated by following these simple rules:

- DO NOT handle any bait
- DO NOT allow CHILDREN to wander unsupervised in the treatment area
- DO NOT bring DOGS into this area
- DO NOT take ANIMALS for eating

The presence of Warning signs indicates that pesticide residues may still be present in baits or animals. The removal of signs will tell you that you can resume normal activities in the area. If in doubt, check with DOC



#### What do I do if I suspect poisoning?

Always contact your:

- Local doctor, or
- Local hospital or
- National Poisons Centre 0800 764 766

#### Who do I contact for more information?



Frances Blakely Rotorua Branch, Forest & Department of Conservation Bird PO Box 1489. Rotorua 3040 (07) 362 8480 www.forestandbird.org.nz

Maurice Wilke Rotorua Lakes Area Office 99 Sala St. Rotorua. ph(07) 349 8212

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## THINKING OF SELLING?

If you are considering selling, call me and I will discuss with you the best method of marketing your property to take advantage of current market conditions.

I am committed to maximising the value of my clients' real estate assets.

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#### LAKE OKAREKA FISHING CLUB 2006

## LAKE OKAREKA 2013 WINTER TROUT FISHING TOURNAMENT REPORT

Thanks to everyone who entered and supported our annual winter tournament with a turnout of 64 entrants. There was a total of 62 fish caught with an average weight of 1.13kg.

We would like to extend a big thank you to the Sean Bowyer at Telfer Marine who donated all the wonderful prizes to help make the event a huge success. Also thanks to the Lake Okareka Preschool for the sausage sizzle and delicious baking.

A special mention to Jeremy Cox and John Herbert for the weigh in and data entry.

Congratulations to the following winners:

Biggest Bag Individual: Mathew Gatenby—5 fish
Biggest Bag Team: Team Tai—total of 14 fish
Biggest Bag Family: The Cox Family—12 fish

Biggest Bag Junior: Skye Cox—5 fish

Heaviest Trout Adult Male: Eben Herbert—2.24kg (fly fishing)

Heaviest Trout Adult Female: Jo Sturm—1.29kg Heaviest Trout Junior: Rhiannon Ward—1.32kg Best Condition Factor: Maria Haines—48.72

For any further information contact Steve Lyons 3628 790, Dean Foster 3628 960 or Jason Douglas 3628 682.









#### LAKE OKAREKA PRESCHOOL—AUGUST 2013

Welcome to our new children and their families who have joined us this term. Our AGM was held in June and we welcome our new Board Members.

#### **Preschool Governing Board**

Katrina Van der Gulik, Nic Bennett, Shanon Garden, Belinda Buchanan, Mandy Trass, Karina Bohle, Kat Gellatly.

#### Learning at Preschool this month

The children are enjoying learning Mandarin Chinese with Lamees on Wednesdays. Some of the experiences at Preschool are the sharing of baking. Quickly Preschool transforms into a café as we set up to enjoy our home baked treats. We promote children's learning of caring for the environment by gardening, composting, recycling and much more. The children are enjoying many learning experiences such as sewing, thanks to Tasmin's Nana Carole. They are learning about three dimensional shapes, creating robots, printing techniques and much more.

#### Social evening

Our social evening to welcome our new families was held on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August. This was a fun meet and greet occasion with families enjoying a take out dinner at Preschool. The children enjoyed our special guest story teller Lara Hania who shared stories with us all. Thank you to everyone involved in making our family whānau evening such a success.

#### Recycling cardboard and paper

We really appreciate the support from the community to recycle and this not only reduces our carbon footprint, it also helps funds for Preschool.

#### Reminders

For Hall bookings you need to call Carol Christian-Price on 362 8702. We break for the school holidays on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September and reopen on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October.

**Special thanks to Rotorua Duck Tours** for our trip this term. This was a most enjoyable experience for the children seeing much more of Okareka.

#### **Enrolments**

We do have limited spaces for next term and the new year. Please let any families with preschool children know about Preschool in your area. For enquires please call Debbie now on 362 8606, after hours 345 9136.

Email: <a href="mailto:lakeokarekaprsechool@xtra.co.nz">lakeokarekaprsechool.co.nz</a>
Like us on facebook © Lake Okareka Preschool









#### LAKE TARAWERA PLAYCENTRE

Lake Tarawera playcentre is situated at 10 Alexander Road, and during term time we have sessions on Monday and Thursday 9.30 am - 12.00 pm. If you want to find out more about our parent run early childhood education

service – for children from birth to age six- please read on.

Congratulations to Mary and Matt on the arrival of their baby daughter Lily, and to the new big sister Sylvie. It has been great to share those special early cuddles at playcentre.

Welcome to Sarah and Cara who have joined our playcentre this term. We have had some new faces coming to visit us this term, with lots of enthusiasm. We also welcome back Cate and Hugo who are back from their overseas trip.

We have all been busy getting ready for end of year finance stock take and auditing process underway and also preparations for our AGM.

This term our children have enjoyed bubble painting, working with clay, collage, a visit to the park next door, and of course lots of time spent playing outside in the sand pit and riding bikes. We recently upgraded our old CD player to a new IPOD; so children will be enjoying more music and exploring new technology.

A big thanks to everyone who supported our special fundraiser – a stall at the Rotorua Night Market - for Tara Chapman. It was great to be able to help a little during these hard times the family is going through. We were able to donate to them a total of \$1000.

Our main fundraising event is coming soon and it is traditional for our playcentre to have a stall at Lake Tarawera Spring Fair. If you are around come a support us on the 27th of October, there will be jumble to get great bargains from delicious cakes and baking and some yummy food.

Please feel very welcome to come and visit, we would love to have you and share in the learning of our children at our wonderful centre.

Feel free to contact us by email <u>tarawera.playcentre@gmail.com</u> or phone us at 3628 748 or at 3628 055 during session times.







#### LANDCARE OKAREKA REPORT—SEPTEMBER 2013

The last 3 months have been very busy for the Landcare Okareka volunteers. Winter is always the busy planting season.

The toilet gardens at Steep St reserve got a complete make over. We also undertook a good trim and tidy up around the reserve there. Castlecorp have been into the reserve since and planted a couple more specimen trees which will provide shade for visitors to the area in summer.

Some of you may remember reading in the Lake Okareka Newsletter last year, about **Maddie and Hunter Potter**, local children who made a donation of some of their hard-earned money as part of a school project, to Landcare Okareka. During the last school holidays the Potter children, along with their friend Ollie Martelli went to visit the **Treeline Native Plant Nursery of Diane Coleman at Kaharoa** to purchase their plants. And before school started back, they came with their dad **Ian Potter** one afternoon and planted those plants in the Lake Okareka Scenic reserve area near the bus stop. Many thanks Maddie and Hunter – and we hope that you enjoy being able to watch your plants and all the others in the area, continue to grow.

A very exciting happening occurred for Landcare Okareka volunteers – when the film crew of Steve Fisher and Don Anderson and interviewer Kerryanne Evans from "Country Calendar" came to film a planting working bee in the Lake Okareka Scenic Reserve in August. This was as part of a programme the "Country Calendar" team were making about Diane Coleman and Treeline Nursery. Diane won Rural Women NZ Enterprising Rural Women Award 2013. Diane spoke about Landcare Okareka as one of her "customers" during her presentation to the competition. She asked that LO also be included in the programme to show where some of her plants are going. LO get plants from "Treeline Nurseries" through both Rotorua District Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council. We understand the programme goes to air on the  $27^{th}$  September on TV1 at 7.00pm.

The planting of the area above and around the sewage pump station – Lake Okareka Scenic reserve - is now completed. There will be on-going weed control to be done in the area for the next several years, and maybe the occasional new plant added.



There will be more Working Bees around Lake Okareka....so if you would like to help, watch out for the sign boards and come along. You will be most welcome Sandra Goodwin 362 8865.



Landcare Okareka - Winner of Bay of Plenty region Weedbusters Award 2012









#### RESULTS OF LOCA SURVEY ABOUT ACACIA ROAD LAKEFRONT SURVEY

Many thanks to everyone who responded to the LOCA survey about the Acacia Road lakefront area. LOCA heard from a total of 27 households with their thoughts on the proposals.

24 out of 27 fully supported the proposal to tidy up the lakefront area generally including moving the fence to take in the large shade tree for people and dogs.

22 out of 27 supported the proposal to remove a small section of raupo reeds growing in the lake and to keep the reeds contained back in line with the front gate post, to provide a bit larger area for people and dog swimming and use by non powered craft – kayaks, canoes, dinghys and yachts.

19 out of 27 specifically agreed with the installation of a pontoon on the left of the jetty and as far away as realistically possible to draw swimmers away from the jetty, especially when the launching area is really busy. The installation of a pontoon was also suggested by the Harbourmaster as he has been concerned about safety at the jetty/ramp area, when it is busy.

13 of the 27 specifically mentioned and supported retaining the front edge and enhancing the beach area with removal of the old water pipes, cutting back the grasses along the lake edge in this area, that makes children and dogs in swimming harder to watch.

While the placement of the arms of the weed cordon were not specifically canvassed in this plan, 8 households did ask for the weed cordon entrance to be changed to try to keep boats leaving and entering the cordoned off area from more towards the right, thus taking them away from where the pontoon would be located.

4 households were concerned that more people might use the area, especially swimming and using the pontoon, if the area was tidied up. Some of these people seemed fearful that the area might get taken over by more boisterous youth. However, another 7 households who replied said they were unconcerned about this. Some said that this area is seen by those who live nearby as a social area for locals. Others said it was up to locals to keep an eye on the place and do something about unacceptable behaviour if they should be exhibited – as has happened at the DOC camp and Boyes beach reserve – ask people to leave and if all else fails call the police. Many also said it was inevitable that more people would come to visit the place anyway.

As a consequence of these responses LOCA plans to continue now to take these proposals to the authorities and seek their permission to move gradually forward with the proposed plan. We will be seeking assistance from RDC with the changed location of the low fence as outlined on the plan. LOCA will be seeking the permission of everyone required (DOC, Te Arawa, RDC, BOPRC) to remove and then contain a few metres of the raupo, to stop it from impinging any further on this Acacia Road lake front recreational area. LOCA will also be seeking permission from whoever is necessary (probably RDC, Te Arawa and BOPRC) to undertake the installation of a trial pontoon or floating platform. LOCA will also speak to the people concerned at BOPRC about the weed cordon and ask about if it is possible to change the way boats enter and leave the cordon. LOCA will also be talking to Rotorua District Council about some more bench seats for the recreation area.

The area will remain as a dog recreation area as it is now. LOCA hopes to further encourage dog owners to pick up after their dogs with a dispenser for "doggie do" bags and a "doggie do" receptacle in the dog recreational area.

Any decisions made in the end, will be made by the authorities concerned and not by LOCA.

Sandra Goodwin, Secretary, LOCA September 2013



Lake Okareka, Rotorua

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#### RAT BAIT AND BAIT STATIONS—SPRING 2013

As I am sure may of you will be aware spring has arrived earlier this year. The birds are beginning to build nests and now is the time to get into rat baiting – as some of you have already done recently.

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 Okareka. We are especially interested in getting more lake side properties involved with rat bait stations. We believe that the results Lake Tarawera are getting with the increase in numbers of dab chicks could be due in part to their successful rat bait programme. They have many lakeside properties there involved. If you are interested, 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.

<u>Bait stations</u> are available by contacting Mike and Sandra Goodwin 362 8865 or email <u>sgoodwin@actrix.co.nz</u> – made by the Lake Tarawera Pest Management Group and cost is \$35. Marcel van Leeuwen, a Lake Okareka resident is also making bait stations, cost is \$20, contact Marcel on 362 8468 or email <u>marvl@xtra.co.nz</u> to order them.

**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 Okareka – 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 12 rat baits. This is enough bait to fill one bait station 2 times during a month. 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 Bob Scope bait station for \$35, please contact:

- Mike & Sandra Goodwin phone 362 8865, 2 Pryce Road or
- Rod Stace phone 362 8523, 30 Summit Road.

Please phone first to arrange a suitable time to collect bait or a bait station.



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#### TIMM'S POSSUM TRAPS—SEPTEMBER 2013

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**Do you currently have one of the loaned yellow Timm's possum traps??** There are a few people with traps that we have not heard from in a while – can you please let us know if you still have a trap and if you are using it, what you have been catching.

These Bay of Plenty Regional Council funded Timm's possum traps are available on loan to any Lake Okareka residents if you contact Sandra & Mike Goodwin 362 8865. The Okareka community has 10 traps which were funded as "loan traps" by Bay of Plenty Regional Council. These traps have been borrowed at various times by members of the community. If you are having possum problems – maybe eating fruit or flowers or they are making a nuisance of themselves at night and you would like to borrow a Timm's trap, give us a call.

If you are not familiar with the "Timm's trap", we will provide you with some instructions about how to use the traps. We will also give you some advice about what seems to work best as "bait" - such as apple with cinnamon, or apple and peanut butter. If you can, keep a note of any possums caught and pass that on to us when you return the trap. We like to know for our records what is being caught around the place and we can also pass that on to the Regional Council.

For more information or to borrow a trap, please contact Mike & Sandra Goodwin on 362 8865.

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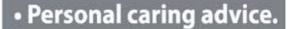
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The photo is the boatsheds near the raupo to the left of the jetty.

Article from The Rotorua Post dated Saturday 6 October 1956 kindly contributed by the Playne Family.

### LAKE LEVEL AT OKAREKA IS RECORD

Winter rains have raised the layer of Lake Okureka as high as old residents have ever seen it. A number with houses on the tiny, high-priced sections along the peninsula can look out of their windows on gardens completely under water, with ducks paddling between the shrubs and only the upper walls and roof of the beat-

One property-owner has built a large sievated concrete invace-although a miniature scaple railway and a laws on lower level are in the water—and another has import-ed filling to raise the lavel of his pardem. After the flexing of three years ago and this experience, and one resident this morning, almost all are reconciled to carthworks in the coming squamer.

#### Steady Rise For 25 Years

Along the foreshore of the lake, the road to the penissula is under water, and the broad reserve, where yachts are bauled up and where Okareka residents held their regatta inst commer, is with it. A sign-post surrounded by water, warns visitors against sampling or lighting

My P. Playse, who has farmed on the castern alde of the lake for the pages said this entering that it had been rising slowly all that time. He believed the reason was the in-

creased run-off as the both on the hills assumd was replaced with grass. Old street maps showed a door-dies now well out in the lake and surveyors pegs were now well under surveyors pegs were now well under scatter. He had been told that a just, ran along the shore on the front of his property, but all that he had ever seen was "a whilsh patch" down between the recoid. Twenty-due years mage, said Mr Payne, a house on the peninsula was in the water and a few years later the roof floated off.

#### Diversion Cut Costly

Over the past alk or seven years, the lake had risen high in the win-ters and had dropped back in the autument, although it never reached the old survey level, said Mr Playne.

Part of his farm had water-logged, would not hold grass and was being taken over by the runbes. He saturated that 20 acres were out of sight this witter and that at least as much again was bogared and uneless.

A cut through the narrow head-land that separates Okareka from the water-fled of Lake Tarawera would be an expensive but compara-tively simple project, said Mr Playne. The only outlet of the lake is at this point. It is an inderground stream that varies little with

This proposal and another for sipbon were both considered by the Rororua County Council, three years ago and turned down on the score of high cost.





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## EVENT INFORMATION SEPTEMBER 2013 to DECEMBER 2013

Events & Venues Rotorua Community and Major Events Team manage all reserve booking for events that happen in Rotorua. They also meet regularly with the BOP Regional Council to discuss and coordinate events happening close to and on all of the lakes in the region. Both organisations appreciate the impact events can have on the location they are held, both positive and negative. If you have feedback that you would like to offer or you wish to discuss events happening in your area, please contact the events team at Events & Venues by calling the Events Manager on 073518654 or by emailing major.events@rdc.govt.nz

Start Date	End Date	Event	Where
11/10/13	13/10/13	Canoe Racing NZ- Club Day	Blue Lake
19/10/13	19/10/13	Bay of Plenty Rowing Regatta	Blue Lake Reserve
15/11/13	18/11/13	Te Arawa Waka Taua	Boyes Beach
7/12/13	8/12/13	CRNZ Club Day	Blue Lake Reserve
14/12/13	14/12/13	Rotorua Half Ironman	Blue Lake Reserve



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#### CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

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My name is Olivia Burman and I live out at Lake Okareka. I am looking for **casual baby-sitting or weekend day nannying/ babysitting**. I currently work part time at Red Stag Timber Ltd. Call me on 3628 701 or 021 0644410. Reference checks available too.

#### Are Wasp Nests a Problem for You?

If you can locate the nest, we can treat it - at NO cost. This is a community service offered by Landcare Okareka, with chemicals funded from donations received by the group—phone Mike Goodwin 3628 865

**WANTED**—I have a young couple expecting their first child looking to buy in Lake Okareka. They have up to \$550,000 to spend. **Phone Cathy Lines**, Licensed Salesperson, Okareka & Tarawera Specialist. First National Real Estate. Mob: 021 033 7707 or AH: 07 36 28 112

**FREE**—Marque available for community events. **Phone Cathy Lines**, Licensed Salesperson, Okareka & Tarawera Specialist. First National Real Estate. Mob: 021 033 7707 or AH: 07 36 28 112

Sharpen your chainsaw on my electric grinding gadget for free or I will do it for \$5—phone Bryan on 3628 224

**Okareka Property Wanted**— I have a client who is very keen to purchase a good property, preferably on the flat, sunny site with views. Anything considered Call **Norman** 2LAKES REAL ESTATE (Licensed REAA 2008) Phone 07 3628056

**Pet Feeding Services** - Pet feeding services over the holiday season and throughout the year, \$5 per visit includes indoor plants watered and mail collected. Limited boarding pens may be available—**phone Carol on 3628 702** 

**Heather Horton (Artist)** - Watercolours, Oils, Pastels and lead-lighting work can be seen in the studio. Works are for sale, or can be ordered—**phone 3628 165** 

Trees felled for free - Conditions apply—phone Chris 3628 679 or Peter 3628 108

**Mobile Library** visits every 2nd Monday at the bus stop opposite 19 Loop Road from 3.25pm to 4.10pm.

**Trays made of recycled rimu** - three sizes: 270x375 \$30, 310x450 \$40, 360x510 \$50 - phone **Bryan on 3628 224**.

**Dry Blue Gum**—only \$80 per m3 delivered to Lake Okareka/Lake Tarawera. Minimum of 2m3 for free delivery. **Phone** Ngaire 345 7488 or 027 460 7056.

**BK Transfers and Shuttles**—24 hours shuttle service and personalized service to Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, Taupo and Rotorua cities/airports. **Phone Graeme 3628 867 or 027 3628 867.** 

**Bee Swarms**— Please phone me if you see any swarms this spring but only if they have settled. Not much use if I get a call to say "they went thataway". **Phone Bryan 3628 224**.

**House Cleaner Available**—hourly rate. Ovens, Ironing, Windows. Anything you need cleaned. **Call Jenny 3628 063.** 



Traditionally, October is when the airlines and coach companies entice travellers to Europe with special airfares and early bird pricing.

So if a trip to UK or Europe is on your horizon for 2014, then now is the time to start preparing and keeping an eye out for the bargains that will be released.

We can help you to plan your itinerary, maybe take in a river cruise or walk the Cinque Terre, or hire a villa in Tuscany. We have cycle and walking holidays and the traditional coach tour as well. Perhaps you want to explore further afield, into Russia or Scandinavia or take in an exciting stopover en-route.

We are holding our UK/Europe evening on Wednesday 16 October, a chance for you to discover just what's on offer... you can also go in to our prize draw to win EUD500 by paying a deposit of NZD200 per person on your Europe holiday on the night. You don't have to know when you are going, you just have to commit to booking with House of Travel Rotorua.

I look forward to helping you plan your holiday. **Donna.** 





#### LAKE OKAREKA RESIDENTS—CHARLIE WALFORD AND JENNY CORBETT

Charlie Walford and Jenny Corbett rent the "Top House" at Longfords Farm, 51 Acacia Road since last February and I love having them next door!!

Jenny was born in Taumarunui in 1961 and went to High School in Auckland then went back to Taumarunui, got married and had three gorgeous daughters Rachael 36, Amanda 27 and Julie 22 who lives in Tauranga.

Charlie was born in Hastings and he too ended up in Taumarunui farming then he went to Auckland with his wife and her 3 children whom he "Fathered" and is still very close to.

Charlie started work for "Fisher and Paykel" as a process worker!! Thirty-eight years later he is a very accomplished "carpenter moulder" for new product and that explains why he is sooo good at anything that needs fixing from trailers, fences, gates and fishponds. He really is "make it work again even better" with metal working and wood as well.

Jenny's hobbies are cross stitching. I mean thread counting!! An eye for detail that is impressive. She also has a love for knitting and flowers and is making a great garden. Jenny is clean and tidy beyond normal - she just loves cleaning and my she can move! Jenny is also a great cook and has catered for me with great success.

SOOOOO if anyone needs a house cleaner occasionally or weekly Jenny is your girl and if the fence needs fixing or the bird feeder has fallen over Charlie will be great. Telephone 362 8063.







