

# THE PHANTOM

Autumn 2020



IN THIS ISSUE:	PAGE NO.
From the Chair	1-2
Libby's Shortbread Recipe	3
A Word from the Editor	
Introducing your Committee:	4
Karen Walmsley	
Lake Tarawera Pest Control	5-6
Pine Pulling	6-7
The Fishing Report	8-9
Underground Power Update	
Local News (Wallace Bain)	10-11
Transfer Station	
TGTS	12-14
Telfer Marine	15
Community Board Update	15-16
Ngaire and Neil Callaghan	16-18
Tarawera Landcare (2115)	19
Lakes Water Quality Society	20-21
Donate to Lake Water Quality	
Dept. of Conservation Update	22
LTRA Committee & Useful Numbers	23

## From The Chair: Libby Fletcher

What challenging times we are all living through at present, I do hope that you are all keeping safe and well. For many, you will be facing very difficult times ahead and I sincerely hope that you have good support available to you. I have been greatly encouraged to see and to hear how everyone particularly at Tarawera, is supporting each other; the thoughtfulness and kindness shown by so many is fantastic. Like so many, I have been out walking.

Everyone is so respectful of the two metre rule and there is always a cheery smile from ones you may not know or the chance to stop for a chat with friends – again two metres apart. So far we have been fortunate that the weather has been kind to us.

### AGM

The 50<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Lake Tarawera Ratepayers' Association was held on January 12<sup>th</sup> and was very well attended. We were pleased

(Continued on page 2)

*(Continued from page 1)*

to welcome Karen Walmsley on to the committee. Thank you to everyone who attended. Usually we include the minutes of the meeting and my annual report in the Phantom, however this year we have put them on the website. <https://www.laketarawera.org.nz/>

For many years we have relied on the goodwill of the members of our committee for accounting and legal work to be done free of charge. As the organisation grows and there becomes more work involved, as a committee we agreed unanimously that it was time to pay for these services. Richard Noke moved that we increase the subscription from \$30.00 to \$40.00 per household. One of our members suggested that the subscription should be raised to \$100.00 and after a show of hands it was moved, seconded and carried. With this increase in subscription it will ensure that we are able to get the best possible advice on matters pertaining to the LTRA.

Due to the length of time the auditors have taken and now with the lockdown for Covid-19 we have still not received the audited accounts. As soon as we receive these they will be uploaded on to the website and we will notify all members.

## **Sewerage**

We are still awaiting the outcome of the meetings with the two iwi but are hopeful their formal view will be supportive of the scheme's preferred option i.e. connecting the Waste Water Treatment Plant in Rotorua via Okareka.

Due to the Covid-19 lockdown. all meetings with Council have been cancelled but we will be writing to them asking for a time frame for the Tarawera sewerage scheme.

Now that many of us have more time on our hands due to the lockdown I have heard a number of times of the things people are doing. I heard the other day a great recipe for cleaning windows; I now have sparkling clean windows. One thing I have been enjoying is baking, and so have my grandchildren, and I thought I would share our family's favourite shortbread recipe with you.

A number of holiday homeowners have written to me and said how sad they are that they will not be at Tarawera for Easter, for many of them it is their favourite time of the year here. Wherever you are in lockdown stay safe and keep well, we will miss you here.

*Libby*

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Libby's Shortbread

With the lockdown I have heard of many of the creative and practical tasks people have been undertaking during this time. I was tidying a book shelf the other day and came upon my grandmother's recipe book, very dog eared and well used over many, many years. I found an old family favourite - shortbread, I made some, it brought back very happy memories of baking with my grandmother, mother and now my grandchildren. It is awhile since I last made this particular recipe and the first bite I realised what I had been missing, I thought I would share it with you.

**225 g Butter**

**125 g Icing sugar**

**125 g Cornflour**

**125 g Plain Flour**

**125 g Custard Powder**



- 1) **Preheat the oven to 150°C**
- 2) **Combine the butter and sifted dry ingredients in a food mixer or food processor and mix until well blended. Tip the dough out onto the bench and knead into a firm mass.**
- 3) **Make the dough into three short rolls and chill until firm. Slice into rounds about 5 cm thick. Set them out on the baking trays, leaving just a small space between the pieces. Prick each piece with a fork.**
- 4) **Cook the shortbread very slowly for about 30 minutes. The tops should not change colour very much, but the bottoms will be a pale golden brown. Rotate halfway through and swap the trays top to bottom.**

## A Word from the Editor: Fiona McAllister



For many of you who normally enjoy Easter at the lake but are in lockdown elsewhere, it will feel strange to not be here this weekend. Those of us here feel for you as it's a special time of the year and the last few weeks have been no exception. The mornings are definitely cooler but mostly the days are fine and sunny and until it became *verboden*, many of us relished our daily swims.

I am fortunate to be in my bubble here—albeit a bubble of one—plus three chickens and two cats. Poor Richard, however, is back at the Mount, being deemed part of an essential service.

As ever, the community here is friendly and supportive—at a safe distance of course but almost daily someone going to town offers to pick up anything you may need.

Hopefully this edition of the Autumn Phantom will make you feel in touch with life here and of course it will all still be here when this is over. Happy reading and happy Easter wherever you are.

## Introducing Your Committee: Karen Walmsley

Tarawera te maunga, Rotokakahi te moana, Te Arawa te waka, Tuhourangi te iwi.

Tena koutou katoa - Greetings to you all

My name is Karen Walmsley, the 'new kid' on the Lake Tarawera Ratepayers' Association committee. As you can probably gather my ancestry has provided me with the privilege of being connected to Tarawera and its surrounds for many generations but since the eruption of Mount Tarawera in 1886, more than my tribal family, now call this place home. I am pleased to be part of the LTRA committee where I hope I will be able to contribute to the future growth of the Lake Tarawera community. Due to the relationships I have, with not just my Iwi and Hapu but our local authorities; Rotorua Lakes Council and Regional Council, as well as our business relationship with the Department of Conservation.



My husband David and I, are great advocates for the Tarawera Trail. I was the first project manager on behalf of Tuhourangi which went a long way to cementing the relationships with these organisations as well as putting me directly in touch with the LTRA committee members at that time. David and I own and operate our water taxi and tourism business, *Totally Tarawera*, which is visible on and around Lake Tarawera. We have four children, Maria who comes home to Tarawera from Dubai, every year around this time with our grandson, Hunter and sometimes even husband Laurence can get away from his work to come as well. Antonia lives and works as an Architect/Interior Designer of mainly commercial buildings in the 'Big Smoke' of Auckland. A familiar face to some of you is Tracy and her husband Wayne who work with us in *Totally Tarawera* bringing with them two beautiful daughters often seen manning the *Totally Tarawera* HUBB at The Landing or deck-handing on our boat 'Sophia'. Last but not least our son Paul, I am sure Bos remembers Paul and his old Holden often broken down on the side of the road between here and Rotokakahi (Green Lake) - he is now married to Helen and has two gorgeous little girls and is manager of Toyota Parts here in Rotorua. We are so lucky to be able to know and have our grandchildren, knowing our succession is guaranteed.

We are committed to protecting and preserving our environment and help out with filling rat bait stations, counting Dab chicks, managing the cherry tree infestation on the Maori Land block on Spencer Road as well as being able to spend some time enjoying the mountain, lands, waters and community of this beautiful place.

Finally when the opportunity came up to be part of the LTRA Committee, I saw it as being yet another way of giving back and being part of the future of Tarawera.

Nga mihi nui

Best regards

*Karen Walmsley*

## Lake Tarawera Pest Control: Easter Update

I am holed up in Mt Maunganui riding out the Covid-19 storm so haven't had the opportunity to check my traps and bait stations in the last two weeks. However, up until March 15 I had caught on Kariri Point, 315 rats and mice, 47 possums, six hedgehogs and one lone stoat in two years. Extrapolated out this is about 60 rats per hectare and doesn't count those eating bait and dying. It is an indication of what is out amongst the untrapped areas that surround us all.

Anyone who was thinking we are on top of the rodent situation need look only at our bait usage, it is 25% above the same time in 2019. Maybe people are hoarding rat baits along with their toilet rolls and hand sanitiser?

Autumn is the normal time for rodents to end their summer holidays and seek food and shelter in a warm spot as the temperatures fall, that warm spot being your house, shed or garden. This is exactly what we are seeing, increased rodent activity, they are after all only looking for easier living conditions.

### What can you do to avoid being predated?

If you haven't got a bait station on your property, get one. Maintain the bait station by keeping it topped up. The bait we use relies on continuous availability to be effective. The active ingredient in the bait accumulates slowly in the rodent, after four or five meal sessions there may be enough to kill. Rodents eat little and often, they are not like a dog that eats until it is sick, rodents keep coming back frequently to easy food sources.

For the baiting network to function properly we need a continuous line of stations along Spencer Rd and for those stations to be maintained. Filling bait stations isn't a sexy job but it is necessary if we are to hold the line against rodents.

Take a few minutes and look around your property to see what would make it attractive to rodents, a compost bin for instance - put chicken wire over the vent holes and put something around the base to prevent burrowing. That sheltered outbuilding, is it secure from rodent incursion? Even wood piles are a sanctuary, I had mice living in my woodpile and I have two cats!

We are never going to rid ourselves of rodents it is more a matter of putting a lid on their activity. When some of the dust settles we will be undertaking a program of using tracking tunnels along the road, these are benign baited tunnels that have inked pads within them and can tell what is out there by reading the footprints. Hopefully in the next Phantom I can share the results.

*(Continued on page 6)*



(Continued from page 5)

Last thing, if any of you have any bright ideas on how to successfully catch stoats I am all ears. I will admit my failure in trapping them despite many, many hours invested in the process and a laundry list of different methods.

*Ratmeister.*



## Pine Pulling: Mount Tarawera—Saturday 18 January

A dozen or so Lake Tarawera ratepayers made the annual pilgrimage up the mountain on a fine but overcast day in January to do their bit pulling wilding pines. This year we were on Wahanga and the pines were particularly gnarly. Having been likely browsed by deer they had multiple trunks and many small branchlets. Few could be hand-pulled; most required a cut and paste to ensure there will be no regrowth.



With the mountain at 1111 metres, regulars know to expect a range of weather situations but fortunately this year the conditions were reasonably benign apart from being quite windy. This year some health issues for our stalwart leader, Ken Raureti, meant he didn't feel up to making the climb, so he and Chrissy McNaughton kept each company as they worked diligently near the top carpark. We were in great hands though as Ken's nephew, Pounamu (known to the rest of us as Handsome) ably led us in Ken's footsteps for the trek up the mountain and wrangled the boys—who would have been off in all directions like— gold-struck diggers if they'd had the chance!



(Continued on page 7)



(Continued from page 6)



It's always a satisfying day out and this is the fifth year a party of locals has made the trip. Wilding pines would take over the mountain if their spread was not curbed and we



are just one of many groups who volunteer their time to assist iwi and DOC in this fight. Iwi support a team of workers who live up there for several months over summer in a portable hut.

It's a rare opportunity to get up this mighty mountain and a testament to the excellent relationship forged by Libby Fletcher, our LTRA Chair. If you haven't been yet, think about it for next January...



All images: Fiona McAllister



## Fishing Report: Geoff Thomas

The number of small trout caught in Tarawera is concerning long-time anglers, and the authorities, but there is not much that can be done to change things.

Out of 20 trout we boated one day, 10 were under-sized or so small you would not consider taking them home to the smoker.

You can raise baby trout in the hatchery at Ngongotaha and put them in the lake, but you can't do anything about the food supply they find in the lake. That is up to nature. All you can do to change the equation is control the numbers of fish liberated, and how and when they are caught - through the rules covering fishing.

Fish and Game have reduced the numbers liberated from 15,000 a year to 12,500 but it will take a few years to see what effect, if any, this has. Some would like to see further reductions, but for the management authorities it is a balancing act between providing fish for anglers to catch, and trying to produce larger fish. They, too, would like to see the Tarawera fishery moving back to the old days of large trout, but it is not a simple solution. The weather plays a huge part in the health of the fishery, and that cannot be influenced.

Fish and Game have started a smelt monitoring programme, using sophisticated sonar equipment from Lake Taupo to survey smelt populations, but that was interrupted by the Covid-19 restrictions. And it will take a few years to develop an understanding of the fluctuations in smelt, as you need a baseline to start with before you can measure changes.

Wild trout, that is those recruited naturally from the spawning streams, make up close to 30 percent of the population, and that has not changed over recent years. It is the lack of natural spawning facilities that creates the need for liberations to maintain the fish population in the lake, and it is the same in Lakes Okataina and Rotoiti.

Conversely Lake Rotorua has ample natural spawning capabilities in the Ngongotaha Stream and others like the Waiteti and Utihiina Streams. So no fish from the hatchery are liberated, except occasionally a few marked fingerlings to monitor growth rates.

Lake Taupo is at the other end of the scale in terms of natural recruitment, with nearly a thousand kilometres of prime gravel spawning beds in the many rivers and streams that run into the lake.

Their problem in recent years has clearly been too many trout for the available food and the daily bag limit has been raised from three to six fish. This has seen an improvement in the quality and size of the

*(Continued on page 9)*



(Continued from page 8)

trout coming from the lake.

Hopefully this winter will see an improvement in the size of the three-year-old mature trout coming into the streams to spawn. But it is up to nature. Last winter about 2700 trout were recorded through the fish trap on the Te Wairoa Stream, and the biggest did not even crack four kilos. One point of interest was two trout which had been through the trap – the fisheries officers know because they clip off a pectoral fin at the trap – were caught by fly fishing at the Wairua Stream mouth one night later in the winter, actually by Fish and Game staff. So those two fish had been up the Te Wairoa, then gone back downstream to the lake and all the way across to Wairua, at the top of the arm.

This is what trout look like when they have access to an unlimited supply of large smelt. These fish, from Lake Rotoiti, weigh from 2 kg to 4 kg, and are the same age as the fish we catch on Tarawera which are less than half that size.



The trout on the left has also been adding koura to the menu, hence the orange flesh.

## Underground Power Update: Pete Fahey

As you will be aware, the LTRA has been talking to Unison about the possibility of undergrounding the power lines along Spencer Rd.

After some discussion Unison provided us with the estimated cost to us of carrying out this exercise. The lower estimate was \$20,000 per property but could be as high as \$30,000. On this basis the LTRA Committee decided that at these levels the costs would be prohibitive and unpalatable to the majority of property owners. Consequently, the pole replacement project will continue when things get back to normal.

Having said that, it is still an option to underground the power from your nearest pole to your house. The cost of this can be shared with neighbours where possible.

## Local News: Wallace Bain



Wallace (Wal) Bain

### Coroner Wallace Bain Hangs up the Gavel after 28 Years

Coroner Wallace Bain, who oversaw a host of high profile inquests including those for abused children Nia Glassie and Moko Rangitoheriri, has announced he is set to retire after 28 years in the role.

"It has been a real honour to have served as a coroner and I have enjoyed working in a wonderful team of coronial staff," he said in a statement announcing his plans.

"New Zealand is very lucky to have such dedicated and outstanding people serving the Coroners Court and I am pleased to see the appointment of new coroners to help with the volume of work."

Bain has overseen some of the most high profile Coroners Court hearings in the country and many of his recommendations were adopted to help prevent future deaths.

Some have included fixing roadways, amending hunting rules and recommendations about bullying and text messaging.

The child abuse cases, such as Nia Glassie, are the ones that stuck with him the most.

"I'm deeply concerned at the horrific child abuse figures in our country," Bain said. "Along with the increasing suicide statistics, especially youth suicide."

Bain, who is set to remain in Rotorua, also had a message for his fellow Coroners, Judges, staff and local media. "You do outstanding work. You have been a wonderful team to work with," he said. "After climbing the mountain, I can finally enjoy the view. I will retire from work, but not from life."

Bain's service was also recognised by Chief Coroner Judge Deborah Marshall. "I would like to thank Coroner Bain for the passion and energy he brought to the role of coroner throughout his service," she said. "He has shown great commitment to find the truth and has served his community well. I hope his retirement brings a well deserved opportunity to relax and recharge."

Bain first became a coroner in the King County and then Taupō areas, from 1992, in a part-time role. He was appointed as a full time coroner in 2007 when the new Coroners Act came into

*"I'm deeply concerned at the horrific child abuse figures in our country ... Along with the increasing suicide statistics, especially youth suicide."*

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)



effect and played an instrumental role in reforming the coronial system at the time.

Prior to this Bain was Mayor of Waitomo in the mid-1990s. He is also a registered pharmacist and practised widely in the health area. He also chaired the NZRFU's former Super 10 and Super 12 judicial committees.

His last day at work was Friday March 27.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/crime/120600066/coroner-wallace-bain-hangs-up-the-gavel-after-28-years>

Wal and his wife Juliet are well known and loved by the local community at Tarawera where they will be enjoying their retirement along with spending time with their grandchildren, fishing and gardening.

## Transfer Station Covid-19 Update: Libby Fletcher

The 24/7 side of the Transfer Station will continue to operate throughout the lockdown for rubbish and recycling. **However it will not be open for larger items on Thursdays and Sunday.**

If during the lockdown you are cleaning out your garage, boat shed or house please do not take any of that up to the Transfer Station, Smart Environmental are under huge pressure at present so it is red bags only in the red bins and of course the bins with the yellow lids for recycling.

It will be interesting to see if there is a reduction in other items that we see in the rubbish bins as there are no trades people working out here at present and we believe that is where some of rubbish comes from.

Please respect the 24/7 area and only leave what fits in your red bag; we certainly don't want a situation where this is closed due to a few selfish people who think they can throw anything into the bins.



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# The Great Tarawera Trout Smoke-off

On a balmy, Sunday afternoon the first (hopefully of many), Great Tarawera Trout Smoke-off was held at the local Community Centre. The organising committee of Liz Cooper, Mandy Godo, Fiona McAllister, Tony Snell and Geoff Thomas had little idea of how many entries we would achieve. We chose the Sunday after Christmas as we felt that's when most locals would be around and will probably continue that but full details will be published in the Phantom later in the year.

We were delighted to receive 28 entries and raised \$535 for the community centre through a \$10 entry fee per fish and a gold coin donation from spectators—some of whom were extremely generous indeed! Several competitors submitted more than one trout; there was no limit. Geoff Thomas and Tony Snell caught and smoked numerous trout and provided free samples for people to taste or take home.



With much anticipation, excitement and pride, entries were dropped off prior to judging and assigned a number to ensure it was a true blind taste test. All competitors were locked outside (to avoid any surreptitious influencing) while the judges conscientiously tasted and awarded marks for Taste (flavour, moisture, texture) and Presentation.

Our three judges were Andy Garrick of Fish & Game, Ken Raureti of Ngati Rangitihi and an obliging local, Brent Smith, who we roped in last minute as the third judge was at a tangi.

While the judging took place, competitors, friends and family enjoyed a BYO beverage or three outside, while children played happily amongst the crowd. We felt we more than achieved our objective, which was to bring the Lake Tarawera community together for a relaxed, fun afternoon.



The event was promoted through emails from the LTRA, street signage and a mail drop. Many properties don't have mail boxes and surprisingly we still have quite a few property owners here who haven't joined the LTRA—yet—so may have been unaware of this inaugural event.

We hope to continue annually as it's a nice way to bring people together, fosters a bit of good-hearted competitiveness amongst friends, families and neighbours

and we managed to raise a few dollars for the community centre.

In the end there were three clear winners, separated by just a couple of points. First place went to Maddie Snell, who also generously offered to be the official photographer; Ange MacKay was runner up and Maddie's dad, Tony Snell was third. The winners received vouchers from Hunting and Fishing who also donated \$130 of spot prizes. Thanks to Expandesign for the signs FOC. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone who came along as a competitor or supporter. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did and return to make TGTSO an even bigger success this year!



## The Great Tarawera Trout Smoke-off: December 29th





## The Great Tarawera Trout Smoke-off



All photos courtesy of Maddie Snell





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## Lakes Community Board Update: Phill Thomass

As I am sure is the case for many of us, your Lakes Community Board started the year with a plan that has been thrown into turmoil by the COVID-19 crisis the world is trying to cope with now.

I have been impressed by the resilience and caring all our lakes communities have shown over the last two weeks since we went into Level 4. I'm aware of all the community and even neighbourhood groups who are actively looking after our more vulnerable residents, the numbers offering to collect shopping for people who need to be more careful than most, the phone trees in operation.



We are lucky I think, to have had such clear messaging and simple straightforward rules coming from Government through the Level 4 lockdown. The figures coming out of Europe and the United States, especially deaths, are an absolute tragedy, and they reinforce the wisdom of the extreme measures taken here. I hope that going forward we have such a clear path to follow coming out of lockdown, and to rebuild not just our local economy but also New Zealand's.

Council is already working with Central and Regional Government on planning for Rotorua's recovery, and both the Lakes and Rural Boards are part of these discussions. The Board's role includes trying to make sure our lakes communities aren't overlooked in those plans.

The Lakes Community Board started this year with a goal of coming out for public meetings to each of our communities twice during 2020, starting in March at Okareka, and this month at Tarawera. Obviously we've not been able to do that, and in fact don't know yet when we'll be able to hold face to face and group meetings again. So in the meantime we're putting together a plan to hold virtual

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

meetings with our various lakes community and ratepayer associations, to strategise around contributions we can make to Council's recovery plans, and to work on what your communities would like to see happen through the next three years especially. Doing this will mean that we can contribute fully on your behalf to the upcoming Long Term Plan review starting later this year and early 2021.

The Board also has a number of projects or Continuing Actions that we are driving or monitoring. These are all in abeyance currently, but as soon as Council staff are able to get back to work on these we'll be re-engaging on them as well.

In the meantime I encourage you all to keep on staying at home in your bubble (I was deeply disappointed to discover that my bubble wouldn't contain my boat, fishing rod and a large number of trout!), to continue to care for each other, and to look after yourselves. If you have any issues or questions around Council services, staff are still on duty and you can contact them on 07 348 4199.

You can also contact me on 0275 47 4455, or by email [phil.thomass@rotorualc.nz](mailto:phil.thomass@rotorualc.nz)

## In the Neighbourhood: Meet Neil and Ngaire

Lying in the sand, enjoying the sun at Waihi Beach, was Ngaire Callaghan's idea of a holiday. When she first came to Lake Tarawera, her initial thought was, "Who would want to live here?" That was about 50 years ago, but today Ngaire and husband Neil happily call Lake Tarawera home.

Their initial introduction was through close friends and co-founding members of Whakapapa's Christiania Ski Club, named after the capital of Norway (now known as Oslo).

Waikato families, the Callaghans and Perrys were keen water and snow skiers and founded the club in 1954. Neil, a building contractor, met Brian Perry, a civil engineering contractor, while they were building the club in 1953. Neil believes joining the ski club changed their lives through the connections they made and that the group's ability to build the club was made easier through a strong sense of team work amongst the participants and less stringent regulations at that time.

The Perrys and Gunsons (of Hawkes Bay), had properties at Te Karamea Bay at Tarawera and introduced their friends, Ngaire and Neil to this special place. Initially the Callaghans had the

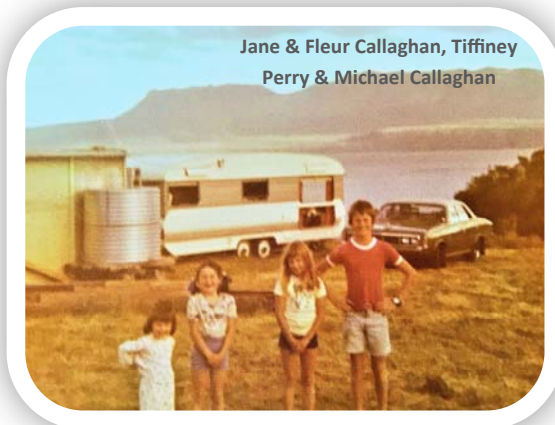


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opportunity to look after the Thorpe's bach for three years while Ian and Pat Thorpe were overseas. Tarawera became where the Callaghans came for summer holidays and their children especially, loved it. Around 1974, Bob Gunson learned that the Thomas family was subdividing some disused farm land and proposed the three families buy it; there would be three two-acre sections, one for each family. The land was bought on the basis that access would be put in, with an airstrip in mind – a quarter of a mile long – with the three properties off it, as Peggy Perry and Bob Gunson were also keen aviators.

The land was rough, undulating and the Waitangi stream (an important fish spawning stream), ran right through it, but fortunately the Perrys had the necessary equipment, based in Rotorua, to fill the gullies and re-pipe the stream. Old fences and scrub were removed as well as blackberry, gorse and bracken. The earthworks were completed in 10 days – an unimaginable achievement today but of course this was pre Resource Consents!



Jane & Fleur Callaghan, Tiffiney  
Perry & Michael Callaghan

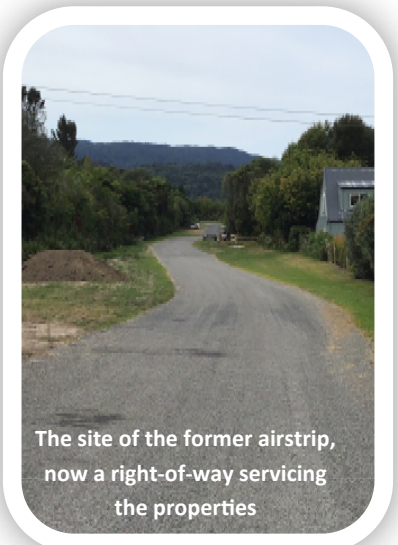
By now the Thorpes had returned from Canberra, so the Callaghan's 'bach' was a caravan which they used while building their new holiday home. The design was based on the Tukino Ski Lodge and Neil and Ngaire, along with their two children, Jane and Fleur (and sometimes Neil's staff), built the house over the next two years. Every time Ngaire stayed—it rained.



The Perrys sold their Te Karamea Bay property and built a house on their new piece of land however the Gunsons remained at Te Karamea Bay and bought additional property. The section they bought off the Thomas' is now owned by the Perry family. The tennis court which was built by the Perry and Callaghan families (with

half on each section), is now privately owned but is still used communally.

The airstrip was formed but never fenced. The pilots would buzz the airstrip prior to landing so vehicles could be moved and children (and even the rabbits) soon learned to keep clear. (The full story of the airstrip will appear in a subsequent Phantom).



The site of the former airstrip,  
now a right-of-way servicing  
the properties

(Continued on page 18)



*(Continued from page 17)*

About 15 years ago, town planning regulations allowed for further subdivision and the three properties became six, although all remained in the families.

In 2009, Neil retired and he and Ngaire decided to make Tarawera their permanent residence and build a new home. The site of their current house was covered in mature oak trees they and their children had

Ngaire planting an oak tree



Fleur & Jane helping out with the planting



planted in the 1970s and these were milled and sent for processing. Once the house was finished, their original Tarawera home was sold to a Wellington family and Ngaire and Neil sold their Hamilton home. Although it was hard to leave family and friends they believe retiring to Tarawera was the best thing they ever did. They still maintain strong links to Hamilton where their three children and five grandchildren live and frequently visit and stay with them. The family equally feel that Ngaire and Neil have established something wonderful here for the whole family to enjoy.

Neil was a former Chair of the LTRA and they both believe it's important to be involved in the community. They enjoy Friday night drinks at the Community Centre, the community in general and the simplicity of life here. Neil commented, "We all need to get back to basics – family and community are the basis of our society. It feels like we have been losing our way."

The impressive oak on the left is the one Ngaire was planting in the image above



Ngaire & Neil outside the home they built for their retirement



## Tarawera Landcare (TLC2115): Pete Fahey

Needless to say, our working bees have come to a grinding halt for the time being.

If you have taken a stroll around Kariri Point recently you will have noticed that the trees and shrubs we planted prior to the dry spell have largely responded well. There have been some casualties but in the main the plants are thriving to the extent that from here on they should be able to look after themselves. With the help of a pump, a 1000 litre tank and 'Rhonda' we were able to take water to most of the plants over the dry spell. A couple of areas couldn't be reached unfortunately. You can check out Kariri Point Progress on the LTRA website:

[https://www.laketarawera.org.nz/site\\_files/14892/upload\\_files/SJLCRELandcare\(2115\)UpdateFeb2020.pdf?dl=1](https://www.laketarawera.org.nz/site_files/14892/upload_files/SJLCRELandcare(2115)UpdateFeb2020.pdf?dl=1)

It is also gratifying to see the natural regeneration going on thanks to Richard Noke's diligence in putting a lid on the possum and rat populations.



*Thanks again to Sir John Logan Campbell Residuary Estate, Treescape and Stihl Shop for supporting our efforts*



***Remember the Stihl Shop in Rotorua give anyone associated with Tarawera Landcare 2115 a discount by way of a donation - so be sure to get your toys serviced there.***

## Lakes Water Quality Society Update: John Gifford

30 March 2020



### Lakes Water Quality Society Symposium Proceedings 2019 -

#### "Float Your Boat Certify - Prevent Invasive Pests, Restore Lake Quality".

The LWQS symposium proceedings from its 2019 symposium is now available for viewing or downloading from the LWQS website: <https://lakeswaterquality.co.nz/>

The Symposium included speakers covering a range of topics related to the management of freshwater aquatic invasive pest species; tools, policies and procedures for protecting our lakes from such species; a presentation on the LWQS proposal for boat operators to self certify they have a 'clean' boat and strategies for continuing the Rotorua lakes restoration process.

A key conclusion from the Symposium was that humans are the most critical factor influencing the introduction of pests into our freshwaters. Furthermore, if we want to stop the spread of these invasive pests we must ensure all boat or vessel users check, clean, drain and dry their vessel before launching into a Rotorua Lake. Nicole Cartwright from the Lake Tahoe Conservation District in the USA provided unequivocal evidence that stringent vessel cleaning procedures has kept pests out of their Lake for over 10 years.

The LWQS is working with the BoP Regional Council on rule changes for the Regional Pest Management Plan that will significantly advance the obligations for all vessel operators to self certify that their boat has been cleaned and therefore likely to be free of pests. The LWQS want urgent action in this area.

### Wallaby Control



Wallabies are an increasingly important issue for our lake catchments. They impact on the understory vegetation of our native forested catchment areas which in turn affects the potential loss of soil and debris into our lakes and the potential addition of nutrients. The topic of Wallaby control was discussed at the

*(Continued on page 21)*



*(Continued from page 20)*

Symposium by Guy Salmon and there was a strong suggestion from the Minister for the Environment (Hon David Parker) that the Government, through its Provincial Growth Fund, may support an application for a wallaby eradication programme.

Since the Symposium, the LWQS in collaboration with the BoP Regional Council, Department of Conservation, Maori land owner groups and other stakeholders are currently working on and pursuing this opportunity. Guy Salmon has been commissioned by the Regional Council to prepare this application. This is an exciting opportunity to attack the Wallaby issues around the Tarawera Lake System so considerable effort is going in to see if we can get this across the line. We will update you in due course.

**Support us and our restoration of the lakes by becoming a member of LWQS, it only costs \$20.**

[www.lakeswaterquality.co.nz](http://www.lakeswaterquality.co.nz)

*John Gifford*

LWQS

Chair

#### **DONATE TO LTRA WATER QUALITY MONITORING FUND**

LTRA manages a special fund to support a water monitoring and testing programme for Lake Tarawera, using data collected from a dedicated weather station, lake water sampling and temperature measurements. The programme operates under the technical direction of Dr Troy Baisden of Waikato University. LTRA invites residents and lake users to offer their support.

**Enclosed is my donation for 2019/20**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick: ☐ \$25      ☐ \$50      ☐ \$75      ☐ \$100

**Other \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Donations may be made by direct credit to LTRA's account: **12-3155-0095175-50**

or by cheque made out to *LTRA Water Quality Monitoring Fund*, and posted to:

**The Treasurer, LTRA, P O Box 1913, Rotorua 3040**

## DOC Update: Caraline Abbott

### Summer Weed Control



Despite field work being postponed due to the Covid-19 Level 4 lockdown, the first quarter of 2020 has seen a concerted effort towards weed control and habitat restoration.

The north and north west face of Mount Tarawera's Wahanga Dome have been the focus of recent wilding pine control, with the project benefiting from community volunteer days. It's estimated that volunteers have cumulatively pulled more than 10,000 seedlings.

At Hot Water Beach, Rangers have been targeting Jasmine and *Pteris cretica*, and focusing on controlling yellow flag iris in other locations around the lake.

During March, Rangers spent time maintaining the Tarawera Trail, managing to tackle the car park and initial section of the trail before the lockdown came into effect. The septic tanks were emptied and weed control tackled periwinkle, ivy, hops and poplar seedlings. The Tarawera Trail lawn mowing and toilet maintenance has been undertaken by Te ara kuiti o Tarawera.

### Accessing DOC Managed Areas During Lockdown Level 4

For everyone's safety, at alert level 4 people must not head into the backcountry or remote areas, nor undertake outdoor activities (such as adventure sports or hunting) that would expose them to higher levels of risk. DOC facilities and offices are closed, and tracks and national parks are not to be visited unless they are right by your home.

### DOC Managed Conservation at Home During Lockdown

If you have green fingers, lockdown is a great opportunity to tackle weeds at home, and a good way to exercise. Visit [www.weedbusters.co.nz](http://www.weedbusters.co.nz) for assistance with weed identification and suggested weed control methods. Many weeds, such as wondering Jew grow from small fragments and are easily spread from dumped piles. Think carefully about how you discard your clippings, and dispose of your weed waste wisely

Search 'Learning from home' on the DOC website [www.DOC.govt.nz](http://www.DOC.govt.nz) for easy practical activities for learning from home, in nature, through COVID-19 lockdown and self-isolation. There's a nature journal template, fun things to make and quizzes to help keep young conservationists entertained.

## Lake Tarawera Ratepayers Assoc. Current Committee

**Chair:** Libby Fletcher [libby@ultimatenz.com](mailto:libby@ultimatenz.com) **Secretary:**

Martin Wiseman [martinwiseman@dlapiper.com](mailto:martinwiseman@dlapiper.com)

**Treasurer:** Don Stewart [dsnairnfisher.co.nz](mailto:dsnairnfisher.co.nz)

### Committee:

**Terry Beckett:** [becketts.tb@gmail.com](mailto:becketts.tb@gmail.com) **Jane Spear:** [janespear2011@gmail.com](mailto:janespear2011@gmail.com)

**Peter Fahey:** [taraweralandcare@gmail.com](mailto:taraweralandcare@gmail.com) **Richard Noke:** [nokemeister@icloud.com](mailto:nokemeister@icloud.com)

**Karen Walmsley:** [taraweratrail@inspire.net.nz](mailto:taraweratrail@inspire.net.nz) **Fiona McAllister:** [fiona@betterwords.co.nz](mailto:fiona@betterwords.co.nz)

### Rotorua Lakes Community Board Contact:

**Chairman:** Phill Thomass [rlcb@thomass.net](mailto:rlcb@thomass.net)

**Lake Tarawera website:** [www.laketarawera.org.nz](http://www.laketarawera.org.nz)

**Phantom Editor:** Fiona McAllister **Email:** [fiona@betterwords.co.nz](mailto:fiona@betterwords.co.nz)

## Useful Numbers



**Emergencies:** Police/Fire/Ambulance/Coastguard 111

**Tarawera Fire Unit:** Brett Bosley 07 362 8378/Dave Townsend 07 362 8489

**Rotorua Hospital:** 07 348 1199

**Lakes Primecare Accident/Urgent Medical:** (1165 Tutanekai Street, Rotorua), 07 348 1000

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

**Rotorua Lakes Council:** 07 348 4199

**Bay of Plenty Regional Council:** 0800 884 880

**Department of Conservation:** 07 349 7400

**Fish & Game Eastern Region:** 07 357 5501

**Rural Delivery** -Jan & Glen Harmer: 07 349 1254/022 153 6894

**Security** – Bos 07 362 8378

**Vet Services** – Vetora (Cnr of Marguerita St and White St, Rotorua): 07 348 2152 (Ph. 24/7)