

THE PHANTOM

Spring 2021



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Chair Report: Libby Fletcher

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Phantom. I hope that you are all well and for those of you still in lockdown, that you are coping well. It is disappointing that the Tarawera Spring Fair has been cancelled due to COVID; this is the first time that it has been cancelled in over thirty years. Everyone will be disappointed as it is such a well-attended fair and a great way to catch up with friends from different parts of the country.

Despite lockdown, it was pleasing to see so many boats out on the lake for the opening of the fishing season on October 2nd and many families here for the school holidays.

Tarawera Reticulated Sewerage Scheme

Again, due to lockdown, the first full meeting of the working party for finding a solution for those who are unable to pay a lump sum for the reticulated sewerage was delayed. This meeting was held on 17th September and the working group is comprised of representatives from Rotorua Lakes Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Lakes Community Board, four members of the LTRA

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committee – Libby Fletcher, Ray Gatland, Richard Noke and Karen Walmsley plus from the community Fred Stevens and Gillian Cook.

At this meeting the Terms of Reference for this working group were accepted. The group discussed potential repayment options available to people who will consequently experience hardship.

Work is well underway on the cost for the scheme as requested by so many of you in your submissions to Rotorua Lakes Council's Long-Term Plan

We, the LTRA, will be exploring additional funding streams for the scheme as currently just 38% of the gross cost of the scheme is subsidised— well below the level of subsidies all the other schemes in the Rotorua District have received. As we have mentioned numerous times, we the LTRA, will leave no stone unturned when it comes to the funding for this scheme.

Lake Structures

There are 248 resource consents for lake structures at Tarawera and these are in four categories:

1. Significant Adverse Effect
2. More than Minor Adverse Effect
3. Minor Adverse Effect
4. Less than Minor Adverse Effect

It is my understanding that lake structures that are in the Less than Minor Adverse Effect have been approved.

In late June, owners of lake structures in the Significant Adverse Effect – the boat sheds on Kariri Point (not all the boat sheds in Boat Shed Bay) were advised that there would be a hearing in September. This group have engaged a lawyer to act on their behalf who asked for the hearing to be delayed, it has been further delayed by COVID. At this stage there is no hearing date set down.

For the owners of lake structures in the other two categories the fate of these structures will follow the decision on the boat sheds on Kariri Point.

Should you have any queries about your lake structure in the Minor and More than Minor category please contact Mike Allen on mike@breakwater.co.nz

Transfer Station

We continue to see items dumped at the Transfer Station that should be taken to the landfill. We believe that the local community are doing their very best to do the right thing and that most of the illegal dumping is coming from outside Tarawera.

You will have noticed that there has been a rearrangement of the containers for recycling and for rubbish. As a result, that has improved the rate of contamination considerably, however we do ask you

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to make sure that when you are recycling that everything is clean to avoid contamination.

I am sorry that we won't be seeing you at the Spring Fair this year, it is a huge disappointment for the hard-working Spring Fair Committee, however they plan to be back next Labour Weekend better than ever.

For those of you who can travel to Tarawera for the long weekend, travel safely and have a great weekend.

Best Wishes

Libby

A Word From the Editor: Fiona McAllister



Eerie spring winds are howling outside as I write this but for the past few weeks we have mostly enjoyed beautiful settled weather and the garden is flourishing. We are starting to harvest lettuces, spinach and kale already and the greenhouse is still producing the odd tomato. The daffodils have finally come to an end but the freesias and tulips are defiantly resisting the wind as they brightly colour the garden which is mostly a sea of green. Hopefully the first strawberries aren't too far away...The weeds of course, are also rearing their ugly little heads – everywhere. Tarawera Landcare had another useful working bee on Saturday dealing to the carpet of invasive *Tradescantia* in the reserve near Boat Shed Bay. We usually meet on the second Saturday of the month at the entrance to Kariri Point and have a productive morning and an excellent morning tea. If you can join us you will be very welcome– whether it's every month or once a year!

My first Dutch iris is out but unfortunately this year I will not be able to add to my collection with my annual Spring Fair purchase. I feel for the organising committee and all those who were planning a stall this year—so many people have worked so hard to make it the success it always is but COVID had other ideas. For those of you still locked down in Auckland , know that we strongly sympathise and hope to see you all back here soon. The good news is—the lake isn't going anywhere (mind you, *neither are we!*)

If you're at a loose end, how about writing something for the Summer Phantom which is due out just prior to Christmas. Thanks to John Lewisham for his story on page 11.

You can email me at: fiona@betterwords.co.nz

Regards

Fiona

Community Centre Update: Claire Stewart

Lake Kids

Lake Kids is a casual meet up for lake families on a Friday at the community hall from 9.30 am -12.00 pm. Join the Facebook group to find out more: www.facebook.com/groups/lakekids/

Working Bees

Held the first Sunday of every month at 10.00 am.



Upcoming events

- ◆ Tai Chi Weekly: Mondays 9.00 am -10.30 am.
Contact Alison Walker if you are interested in coming along on: aire@xtra.co.nz
- ◆ Friday Night Drinks: Every Friday from 5.30pm. All welcome. BYO drinks and nibbles.

Membership Fees

If you're not already a member or if you need to renew your annual membership fees please find the details below. This goes towards the upkeep of the hall and also ensures you get member rates for hall hire and invites to all events.

\$20 Payment by internet banking to:

Account name: Lake Tarawera Community Group

Account number: 03-0415-0068074-000

Reference: Please include your name

If you know someone who is a member who is not receiving our emails please forward this email and ask them to [click this link to subscribe.](#)

Hall Hire

Murray Dillner is the contact for hall bookings. Please contact Murray if you would like to book the hall for an event on murrayedillner@gmail.com

Fees for hall rental are:

- Child's birthday party or similar event, half day: \$30 (member) \$50 (non member).
- Council or similar external 'commercial' group—date rate of \$250 or \$200 for not for profit organisations.

Hall hire is a key revenue stream for the centre to ensure we can cover basic costs such as insurance and building warrant of fitness.

If you have any further questions regarding the Lake Tarawera Community Group please contact Claire Stewart on clairemariestewart@gmail.com

Regards

Claire



ALL OVER LAKE TARAWERA



Jenny Donne - Lake Tarawera Specialist

I am experiencing a high rate of buyer enquiry at the moment so if you are thinking of coming to the market please give me a call. The Lakes market has been my specialty for over 10 years which gives me a wealth of knowledge of the local community plus being backed by the Bayleys brand with strong national and international links gives your property a leading edge in today's market.

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

Jenny Donne Lakes and Residential Sales
P 07 349 5356 | M 027 385 0566 | E jenny.donne@bayleys.co.nz

ALTOGETHER BETTER

Residential / Commercial / Rural / Property Services

King of the Lake: 3 January 2022

SAILORS – MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW

1.00 PM on 3 JANUARY, 2022

It is a challenging race for experienced sailors!

For more details contact Pat Thorpe: patian.thorpe@outlook.com



STOP! DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE LAKE TARAWERA BRIGADE?

Lake Tarawera Fire Brigade

Open Day

20th Nov 2021

11.00am – 2.00pm



Training

Opportunities



Fire

Deployments



Protecting
your
Community



Helping the
community



Meet the Crew



From Lake Tarawera

- BBQ from 12.00pm
- Wajax Pump Demonstration
- Find out how to get involved
- View facilities inside the station

Spring Fair - Labour Weekend 2021

Sadly the Spring Fair this year has been cancelled due to limitations around COVID-19



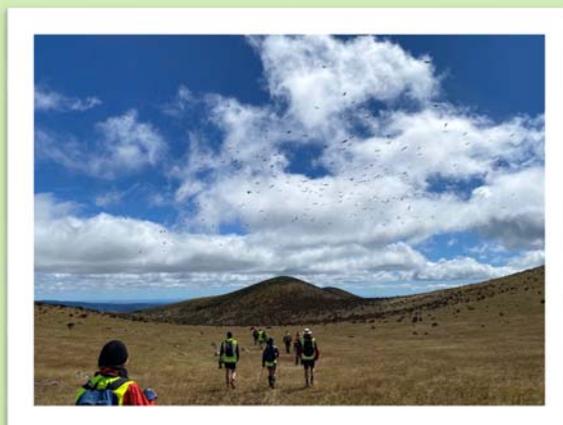
CANCELLED

**We look forward to your support of the
Spring Fair in October 2022**

Pine Pulling January 2022

Join a group of keen Tarawera ratepayers for a rewarding day ridding our lovely mountain of invasive wilding pines. It's a tough but enjoyable day and a great opportunity to go up Mount Tarawera. Places are limited. (Date TBC but around Jan 22).

- ◆ Must be a member of the LTRA
- ◆ Age 15+
- ◆ Reasonable fitness required
- ◆ Transport is shared from a central meeting point
- ◆ A gear list and further details will be sent out to participants



To register your interest please contact Fiona McAllister: fiona@betterwords.co.nz

Lakes Water Quality Policy Brief: Stuart Corson

Lakes Water Quality Society intention is to "return our twelve Rotorua lakes to their pre-1960s quality", through advocacy and education.



17 May 2021

Required Action

1. Complete with urgency the community-agreed sewerage reticulation; to eliminate preventable nutrient and *E. coli* inputs.
2. Eliminate wallabies and deer from catchment, to reduce erosion and phosphorus input.
3. Develop and implement new Lake Restoration Plan.
4. Sustained programme of invasive pest-lake weed removal.
5. Implement boat self-certification process to assure freedom from catfish.

Background

Lake Tarawera is large, deep and mostly surrounded by undeveloped land, so should have pristine water quality, but does not. Current TLI of 3.1 is significantly below its target value of 2.6 (1994 water quality). Occasional summer algal blooms have become a reality in the Wairua Arm. Water quality in this lake is exacerbated by its receipt of underground flows from the six surrounding lakes, most of which have substantially higher TLI – 3.3 to 4.8. High phosphorous levels in the lake water are of concern. 12.5 tonnes of phosphorus are estimated to enter the lake annually and readily interact with nitrogen to provide the potential for cyanobacteria formation. An important and the most-readily reversible contributor to this phosphorus input is the soil erosion caused by foraging pest animals - specifically wallabies, that have reached plague proportions. Underground geothermal flows also add phosphorous.

Chronology

- 1994** - Lake has "good water quality" typical of an oligotrophic lake, TLI = 2.6.
- 2006** - "Lake Tarawera" working party, comprising community, rural landowners, iwi and others assembles to develop a "Catchment Management Action Plan" with the support of Environment BOP and the Rotorua District Council. Resulted in substantial on-farm control interventions.
- 2011** - RDC completes Lake Okareka sewerage reticulation; intent is that Lake Tarawera would follow immediately.
- 2012** - First community discussions concerning sewerage reticulation.
- 2015** - Recommendation #1 of the Tarawera Restoration Plan is sewerage reticulation. Te Arawa Lakes Trust assumes role as Chair of Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group, which has responsibility for Lake Tarawera restoration.
- 2016** - Lake Tarawera Sewerage Committee begins meeting, with \$50 000 RDC support.
- 2017** - MFE grants \$6.5 million to the Tarawera Sewerage Scheme.
- 2018** - Tarawera Sewerage Steering Committee (and Tarawera residents) strongly supports individual, onsite LPGP system, with cultural approval (2017 & 2019 CIAs).
- 2020** - BOPRC considers Tarawera Restoration Plan complete - but this requires implementation of Tarawera Sewerage Scheme, TSS, and reporting of nutrient budget for completion. In November, RLC approves TSS for completion by June, 2024; with intent that homeowners pay \$33000+ on connection.

Lake Tarawera Pest Control

Rats, rats, rats and a few rabbits and possums —that is what is keeping me partially occupied.

The mild winter has been an early present for all of the above, especially rabbits and rats—they like the weather warm. Certainly the bait usage shows that apart from a minor slow up in July the rats are out there in numbers.

My tally is over 530 rats caught (this doesn't count rats dying from bait uptake) at Kariri Point in just over three years. Lately there have been a couple of big daddy rats caught on a mix of peanut butter, salmon oil and Oreo cookie (all mixed together).

Rabbits

I have been shooting them and despite my successes they remain out there in numbers enough to be a nuisance. It is interesting to note that anywhere there are either cats or dogs, the numbers of rabbits are negligible.

Traps

We received some money from DOC and have used that to buy some more stainless steel traps but also to continue with the trialling of a new breed of trap. NZ Autotrap made in Whakatane is a battery powered resetting trap and so far it looks promising. They are not cheap at over \$300 each but the battery lasts at least three months and I can so far recommend them more than the Good Nature CO2-powered trap.

Bait

There was a glitch in our bait supply earlier but we are sorted now after finding a way to get it out of Auckland. The Regional Council who provide the majority of funding for baits have reminded me of my obligations re: recording of bait usage. We need to be aware of the H & S issues around use of what is essentially a poison.

Please note: Anyone who takes a bucket of bait from either the Community Centre or the Buried Village needs to record against the specific bucket number

- **Their name**
- **Contact number**
- **Approximate area where the bait is to be used**

Some buckets have gone without this information being recorded—it will not have a happy end.

If we lose the BOPRC funding, our program will cease so please if you are taking baits, make sure to supply this information.

For those of us living here, the morning birdsong is testament to the effectiveness of our work—it's not sexy but it works.

Regards

Ratmeister





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WANTED

Empty 15 litre water bottles for protecting
new native plants from rabbits at
Kariri Point and Rangioru Bay



Please drop off to 214 Spencer Road,
Lake Tarawera

AED (Heart Defibrillator)
Lake Tarawera Fire Station
(Secure external cabinet by
front door)

Stoney Point Reserve
151 Spencer Road
Lake Tarawera



Phone - 111
for cabinet combination
from Ambulance
Communications 24/7



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1960 Jet Boating on Tarawera



My parents Edgar and Kath Lewisham holidayed at Lake Tarawera from 1953 with their five children at their lakeside bach on Spencer Road. I, John was the youngest of five. We enjoyed wonderful family activities on the water and around the lake.

Dad had a passion for boating and was very much a pioneer, adopting the John Hamilton Jet Boat technology invented to navigate the South Island rivers and rapids.

Alex Collings Naval Architect, a boat builder of Freemans Bay Auckland, was commissioned to design and build a 17'

kauri-planked jet boat, to be the first 17' three-stage jet boat in New Zealand. The boat named Chinook (after the Hong Kong wind), could operate in six inches of water and was powered by a modified Zephyr six-cylinder motor, with a top speed of 38 mph.

Operationally the jet boat was very loud not having mufflers but rather two heat exchanges and could be heard as far as the White Cliffs on the lake. For water skiing it was less than ideal, slow out of the hole and producing water turbulence behind the wake. Being a flat bottom runabout it had a rough ride in the steep lake chop. On one family adventure the jet boat cruised down the beautiful Tarawera River to the first set of rapids. Dad completed the Waikato River 100 mile Race in Chinook from Hamilton to Mercer return in 1960, coming second out of a large contingent of craft, at a time when jet boats were in their infancy.

Many Lake Tarawera locals and holiday makers will remember my father's extraordinary jet boat experience at Kariri Point. My uncle, Don Winstone, helped launch Chinook at Boat Shed Bay returning the car and trailer back to our bach. Dad in Chinook proceeded out into the lake and around Kariri Point.

While the boat was at speed he went to the stern to check for water in the bilge and upset the weight distribution in the boat. The flat bottom boat did not track well and he looked up to find the boat going straight towards the shore. Dad turned the motor off as the boat remarkably careered up a fallen tree in the water— finally coming to rest suspended on the tree branches!

Unbelievably the boat impaled a German Wasp nest who were angry at being dealt to and proceeded to swarm over and sting Dad. He jumped into the water and swam mostly underwater to Rangiuru Bay near the tennis court, each time he surfaced for a breath, he was stung by the wasps. Dad was treated by Doctor Noel Baskett for nine stings. The issue now was to recover Chinook and over the next three evenings, attempts were made to kill the nest but regrettably these were unsuccessful.

One early evening, eight men lifted Chinook off the tree into the water and the boat was towed to their bach, placed on the trolley and winched up the rails into the boat shed. Remarkably Chinook had only three grazes on her hull. A truly memorable, historic experience at Lake Tarawera.



John Lewisham

29 September, 2021

Rotorua Lakes Council

SAVE TIME – DO IT ONLINE



Some of the tasks you can do online with Rotorua Lakes Council

- Register and renew dog registration
- Request property and rates information
- Pay for parking
- Pay for rates or set up a direct debit
- Receive rates invoice via email
- Have your say – community consultations
- Check district maps
- Library services – select e-books, pay fees and extend loan periods
- Check your rubbish and recycling collection day

Rates invoice by email

Did you know you can receive rates invoices by email rather than having it posted to you?

It will be more efficient – and more environmentally-friendly!

Register on our website

🌐 rotorualakescouncil.nz/ratesviaemail

Pay by direct debit

For information and to fill out a direct debit form, go to

🌐 rotorualakescouncil.nz/ratespayment

Pay your rates via internet banking

Search for *Rotorua Lakes Council Property Rates Payments* as the payee. Make sure you enter your name and valuation number as payment references so we know who the payment is from. Your valuation number is at the top of your rates invoice.

For help call us on ☎ 07 348 4199

or email ✉ info@rotorualc.nz

Head to 🌐 rotorualakescouncil.nz
for more information.



A recycling tip for you
and your mates,
keep bottle caps and lids
out of the **blue crate**



The Tarawera transfer station

Using the local transfer station correctly helps to lower the cost to maintain the facility, and maximise the amount of waste that can be recycled.



Disposing of household rubbish

Household rubbish goes into the red lid bins, in red plastic Council bags only.

To get more red bags, visit the transfer station during manned hours or call ☎ 07 348 4199 for more options.

Household recycling

Recycling goes into the yellow lid bins. This includes paper and cardboard, aluminium and tin, and only plastic items numbered 1, 2 and 5 (due to limited onshore recycling facilities in NZ).

Items that are commonly mistaken as recyclable are foil chip packets, polystyrene, tetrapak (long-life milk packaging), plastic bags and gladwrap. Please put these in the household rubbish.



Glass recycling

Glass recycling is sorted by colour.

Please remember to remove bottle caps and jar lids before recycling your glass items.

Items for landfill

If you visit during manned hours (Thursday and Sunday, 1 - 4:30pm), you can dispose of green waste or rubbish for the Rotorua Landfill Refuse Transfer Station.

Fees changed in July 2021, after changes to the national waste disposal levy and Emission Trading Scheme by Central Government. You can find out more about this on Council's website.



Help us keep your local transfer station tidy by reporting illegal dumping, on ✉ info@rotorualc.nz or ☎ 07 348 4199

August 8 2021: A Snowy Treat



Photos clockwise from top left: Richard Noke, Debbie Morris, Fiona McAllister, Debbie Morris, Anonymous, and Debbie Morris.



DOC Update: Caraline Abbott

Trout Fishing Opening Day

The opening of the trout fishing season is an annual highlight and 2021 was no exception. At dawn on Saturday 2nd October, anglers from across the country were out with their rods on lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina as they marked the start of the trout fishing season. While the Covid-19 response alert level response meant that there was less face to face interaction than usual, Department of Conservation Rangers worked alongside Fish & Game, Te Arawa Lakes Trust and Bay of Plenty Regional Council to ensure anglers had a safe and enjoyable time while on the water. DOC Rangers reported general compliance with the rules, with people camping in the designated areas and as a positive, no fires being observed.

Locals who are heading out onto the lake are reminded to **Check, Clean and Dry** between waterways to prevent the spread of aquatic pests such as catfish and aquatic weeds.

Camping with DOC

Remember to book your campsite!

Campers wanting to stay at one of the Rotorua DOC campgrounds over summer are asked to book and pay in advance of their 2021 summer stay.

Bookings for most campgrounds are made via www.doc.govt.nz

Bookings for Hot Water Beach (Lake Tarawera) are made through Totally Tarawera totallytarawera.com/hot-water-beach-te-rata-bay/



Dabchicks

The Dabchick (weweia) breeding season is underway. Often mistaken for scaup, dabchicks are native water birds and part of the grebe family. They are currently extinct in the South Island but they can be found around the Central North Island in the Taupo and Rotorua areas. Dabchick populations are classified as being 'at risk' for multiple reasons including habitat destruction, predation and nest disturbance from boats and jet skis.



Between September and December, solitary pairs of dabchicks nest on Rotorua's freshwater lakes, anchoring the nest to aquatic vegetation or building it in a small cave, partially underwater. The nest is a loose pile of aquatic vegetation up to one metre deep from lakebed to water surface. Because the nest is attached to something it doesn't have much buoyancy, so dabchick nests are very easily swamped by

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even a small rise in water levels – including boat wash. Owners of boatsheds and jetties are asked not to work on these structures during the dabchick breeding season to prevent disturbing these birds and their nests.

Annual orchid survey

Rotorua DOC's annual red bearded orchid survey is planned for 26th November. These naturally uncommon flowers, flower from October to December and have been surveyed for many years to identify trends in growth. The survey involves walking a small defined area and counting the flowers and should take about three hours.



Volunteers who would like to help with the 2021 survey are asked to contact

cnoble@doc.govt.nz

Fires

We also want to raise awareness of the wildfire risk over summer.

From December, Fire and Emergency ask that everyone checks the local fire danger level at

www.checkitsalright.nz before they light a fire.



Ring the DOC emergency hotline 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468)

Call 111 for all fire and search and rescue emergencies.

Regional Council Harbourmaster



As part of the Bay of Plenty Regional Council Harbourmaster team we've had a busy "off-season" on the lakes. It's surprising how many navigational aids shift or break off their anchor point due to weather and wear and tear and the amount of maintenance involved. This includes everything from 5 knot buoys to waterski and static markers.

It is so pleasing to see the great community work occurring around Lake Tarawera, particularly on Kariri Point. A few of the derelict boats have disappeared which is good, yet there are still a few eye sores in Boat Shed Bay. So if you own one of these please do the right thing and tidy it up or remove it.

The 2022 "Boating in the Bay" publication is due out at the end of the month and highlights all of the rules and some of the hazards on our lakes and region. You can find this info in the Boating in the Bay section at www.boprc.govt.nz

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This summer we're expecting more people to use the lake space and with that will bring more inexperienced people. On the lakes last year we interacted with 1914 vessels and over 6300 people. Two hundred and seventeen bylaw breaches were handed out. We are currently in the process of building a third patrol boat and hope to have this on the water in the New Year, allowing us more patrols with better coverage.

Some things to remember—In the Bay of Plenty, **lifejackets must be worn at all times** unless the skipper has assessed the risks and advised it's safe to remove them. Crotch straps are essential for children's lifejackets.

Things to consider:

- the activity – fishing? watersports? kayaking?
- the distance from shore you intend to go
- the conditions you are likely to encounter

Your boat must not exceed 5 knots:

- within 200m of the shore, a structure or dive flag; and
- within 50m of another boat, raft or person in the water
- if anyone has any part of their body over the edge of a power boat

As boats get more powerful, wake is increasingly becoming an issue. A wake can throw people off-balance, damage other vessels and structures, and erode the shoreline. **Always consider the effect your wake may have.**

If you're towing someone behind your boat, whether they're on skis, a wakeboard or biscuit, they must wear a lifejacket and only ski between sunrise and sunset. Always have an observer who is aged 10 year or over.

Make sure you say "Giddy" to our patrol teams when you see them out and about, they may just throw some goodies your way for sticking to the rules! Here's to a safe and fun summer on the water!

Roly Bagshaw

Senior Maritime Officer (Lakes)



LTRA: Current Committee

Chair: Libby Fletcher libby@ultimatenz.com

Secretary: Martin Wiseman martin.wiseman@dlapiper.com

Treasurer: Richard Noke noke@eol.co.nz

Committee:

Terry Beckett: becketts.tb@gmail.com

Ray Gatland: gatland@xtra.co.nz

Peter Fahey: taraweralandcare@gmail.com

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Rotorua Lakes Community Board Contact:

Chairman: Phill Thomass phill.thomass@rotorualc.nz

Lake Tarawera website: www.laketarawera.org.nz

Phantom Editor: Fiona McAllister Email: fiona@betterwords.co.nz

Useful Numbers



Emergencies: Police/Fire/Ambulance/Coastguard 111

Tarawera Fire Unit: Chief Fire Officer Steve Gatenby 0274 664 161 steve.gatenby@til.co.nz

Station Officer Murray Dillner 021 290 0376 murrayedillner@gmail.com

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

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

Security – George Gilmour 07 362 8378 gilmour06@gmail.com

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

Vet Services – Barrowman & Goodman (110 Lake Rd, Koutu, Rotorua, 3010) 07 343 9090