

THE PHANTOM

Autumn 2024

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Chair Report: Libby Fletcher

Welcome to the autumn Phantom, a beautiful morning, crisp and not a cloud in the sky. Hopefully, the weather will hold for Easter.

AGM

The 54th AGM of the Lake Tarawera Ratepayers' Association was held on Sunday 14 January 2024. The meeting was very well attended with the Mayor, Acting CEO, four Councillors from Rotorua Lakes Council, the Chair of Bay of Plenty Regional Council, 72 LTRA members and 21 members of the community.

The Minutes of the meeting and the Chair Report are included in this edition of the Phantom. The Financial Report for the year ending 30 September 2022 is on the website

www.laketarawera.org.nz

Tarawera Reticulated Wastewater Funding Working Group

At the AGM there was considerable debate on the proposal for a funding sub-committee of the LTRA committee. Members were not convinced it should be a sub-committee as opposed to an independent Working Group including LTRA committee

(Continued from page 1)

representation.

There was a community meeting held on the 28 January, which was very well attended, following that meeting the Working Group has been formed and there are four members from the community, and two from the LTRA:

- ♦ Libby Fletcher (Chair)
- ♦ Sir Henry van der Heyden
- ♦ Peter Johnston
- ♦ Gordon Lewis
- ♦ Dean Waddell
- ♦ Karen Walmsley (representing mana whenua)

Subsequently there have been two meetings, the Terms of Reference have been agreed and have been circulated. On Monday 08 April, at 7.00pm there is a meeting to be held at The Black Barn to update the community. If you are unable to attend in person, you may join the meeting by zoom and it will be recorded. Details have been sent to everyone who is on the Working Group data base. If you know of anyone who has not received an invitation, please let them know that everyone is welcome. If anyone not on the Working Group data base wishes to be added please email workinggroup@taraweralake.nz

Update on the Tarawera Reticulated Sewerage Scheme:

Work is progressing well on the pipeline installation, there are 5.7 kms of pipeline still to be completed. This includes from Boat Shed Bay to 12 Spencer Road, in this area there are a number of rocks, and it is not possible for this area to be thrusted, instead it will be saw cut and is due to start in April. The side roads off Spencer Road are still to be completed. Work has stopped in the vicinity of Lake Rotokakahi (Green Lake) due to the protest until this situation is resolved.

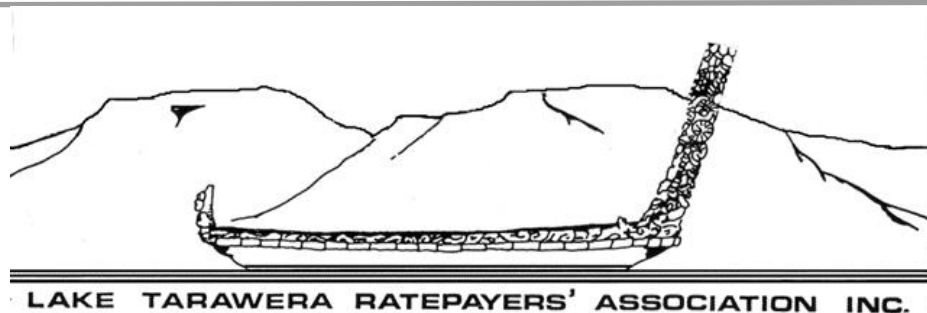
The Cliff Road Pump Station work is progressing well. Over the last few months over 65% of the boundary assemblies have been installed, there will be no boundary kits installed on empty sections.

There is further information in the March 2024 Tarawera Sewerage Scheme Update that has been emailed out to Tarawera Ratepayers. If you haven't received this email, Project Updates are on the council website www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/tarawerassupdates

Wishing you all a safe and happy Easter.

Best wishes,

Libby



Minutes of the 54th Annual General Meeting

SUNDAY, 14 JANUARY 2024 COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM

At the Lake Tarawera Community Hall, Corner Spencer, and Alexander Roads.

Welcome

Libby welcomed distinguished guests: Rotorua Lakes Council Mayor – Tania Tapsell, Bay of Plenty Regional Council Chairman – Doug Leeder, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Helen Creagh BOPRC, RLC Councillors – Karen Barker, Conan O'Brien, Robert Lee, Fisher Wang, Acting CEO Gina Rangi, Stavros Michael RLC, Lakes Community Board Chair Phill Thomas, Nick Chater, Jennifer Rothwell and LTRA Committee, 72 members and 21 members of the community.

Apologies

Rotorua MP, Todd McClay, Deputy Mayor Sandra Kai Fong, Councillor Greg Brown, BOPRC Councillors Lyall Thurston, Kevin Winters and CEO Fiona McTavish. Terry Beckett, Karen Walmsley, Mark & Robyn Chapman, Murray & Cathie Dillner, Phil & Liz Cooper, Keith Fletcher.

Minutes of the 53rd AGM

Approval of the minutes, moved, seconded, carried.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

The chair covered verges having been mowed and the fact fibre is not likely to be laid inside 2 years. Gordon Lewis asked what progress the committee had made on further funding and an equitable funding proposal. The chair answered other philanthropic organisations have said no on the basis reticulation in part occurs on private properties and equitable means the same subsidies and government funding as other lakes with reticulation.

Chairman's Report

This is attached and was delivered by the Chair and approved by the meeting.

There was considerable debate on the proposal for a funding sub-committee of the LTRA committee. Members are not convinced it should be a sub-committee as opposed to an independent working Group including LTRA committee representation. This discussion will be continued by the LTRA committee with Sir Henry van der Heyden, Gordon Lewis, Peter Johnston and Dean Waddell in the period leading up to the public meeting on 28 January. Draft Terms of Reference will also be discussed.

The chair agreed that at each AGM details of the numbers of members of LTRA will be published,

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currently 209, a number of whom own more than one property.

Financial Report:

Treasurer, Richard Noke, reported that LTRA is in a better cash and financial position as at 30 September 2023 than at the same time in 2022.

The financial statements are on the website. www.laketarawera.org.nz

Election of 2023 Committee

All current members, were nominated and had consented to act and be nominated, were reappointed. There were no nominations received and so all current members were re-elected unopposed.

There was discussion over why there were no nominations when some members of the community believe that current committee members cannot be trusted and are incompetent.

Update on Sewerage Reticulation from Stavros Michael of Rotorua Lakes Council (RLC)

Stage 1 is currently on time and on budget. Three risks were identified:

1. Rock
2. Time disruptions caused by resident activities.
3. Lake Rotokakahi Board of Control opposing the main trunk line passing their lake.

Local Government Official Information & Meeting Act (LGOIMA) requests from the community add to the costs of the Lake Tarawera Wastewater Reticulation scheme.

Stage 2 contract will be advanced and awarded following RLC decision to proceed on 12 December 2023. Target date for works to begin is June or July 2024 once Stage 1 is completed.

Stavros handled a barrage of questions on:

Question: Why can't works on individual properties be individually priced and billed?

Answer: Inconsistent with public consultation that the community want a RLC installed, owned and managed end to end system and inconsistent with request for further funding from RLC which will come from ratepayers outside Tarawera.

Question: Will Tarawera residents contribute to cost of RLC's wastewater treatment plant upgrade?

Answer: No

Issues relating to particular properties' characteristics and the number of connections they will require. Stavros agreed to take individual queries by email on those and to clarify the terminology used by RLC on that topic.

The meeting thanked Stavros for his participation.

Update on Lake Water Quality from Deniz Ozkundakci

The power point presentation as presented by Deniz is available on the LTRA website on the Water

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Quality page www.laketarawera.org.nz The summary was that over 35 years by a range of measures there is deterioration in the lake water quality. The measures are total phosphorous, nitrogen levels and water clarity. All have worsened.

In addition the lake's Trophic Level Index (TLI) is currently 2.9 against a target of 2.6 and there is a moderate state of aquatic invasive plants.

On the positive side koura numbers are high and there are no catfish in the lake.

The key to water quality improving is reducing nutrients in the lake. Nutrients feed algae growth. When the algae decomposes and settles it reduces oxygen levels in the lake at various strata of depths. Wastewater contributes approximately 2.7% of nutrients to the lake depending on rain fall.

Lake Tarawera receives inputs of water and nutrients from seven lakes within the Rotorua district so measuring exact causes of deterioration is complex. This means the input from Lake Okareka is not particularly significant in the scheme of things particularly given reticulation at Okareka.

A question was raised about why the TLI target set at 2.9 can't be reduced, the answer being it requires a process under the Resource Management Act to be followed.

Guest Speakers

Her Worship the Mayor Tania Tapsell:

Tania spoke of the cost pressures on RLC. Further contributions to reticulation will require cuts elsewhere. She thanked the LTRA committee for its work.

Doug Leeder, Chairman BOPRC

Doug made the point that BOPRC only ever funded reticulation of deed lakes. The responsibility for funding reticulation at Tarawera is RLC's and its ratepayers. He did however invite a submission for further funding for Tarawera in BOPRC's Long Term Plan.

General Business

Debate continued on whether the funding committee should be a sub-committee of the LTRA committee or an independent working group consulting with the LTRA committee.

The Chair thanked the community for attending, thanked the guests speakers and the LTRA committee members.

The Meeting closed at 12.30 pm

AGM Chair Report for Year Ending 30 Sep 2023

It is my pleasure to present to you the Chair's report for the year ending 30 September 2023.

It has been a very busy and challenging year for all the members of the LTRA committee.

Lake Tarawera Sewerage Scheme

As you are all aware the contract for Stage 1 of the Sewerage Scheme was signed in late 2022.

On Tuesday afternoon 18 April 2023, there was a whakatau (a welcome ceremony) held on Ahu Whenua Trust land prior to Stage 1 of the Tarawera Sewerage Scheme starting. Following this welcome Fulton Hogan started the pipe installation on Tarawera Road near the Bike hub to the existing Okareka sewer pipe, Tarawera wastewater will be channeled through the existing Tarawera Road pipe to the Rotorua Wastewater Treatment Plant. Once that work was completed work began at the far end of Spencer Road. It is evident how well work has progressed as you drive along Spencer Road.

The LTRA committee are very concerned about the angst in the community regarding the cost of the scheme, we totally understand how worried many are about how they are going to pay for it. During the year, members of the committee have met individually with the Councillors, particularly the new ones. We have made it very clear to them that the cost is the issue; residents do want reticulation. Whenever we have an opportunity talking to Councillors, politicians, and Council staff we stress all ratepayers at Tarawera want a fair and equitable deal – the same as all the lakes have received. The same approach has been used in submissions to both Councils' Annual Plans.

Some members of the community have been very critical of the committee in that they are not fulfilling their duty as a ratepayer organisation. To quote the rules of the Association '**for the benefit of all the residents of Lake Tarawera**'. We would very much like to get our message out to every ratepayer at Tarawera, however we only have direct lines of communication with our members.

Now that consultation with the community including two cultural impact assessment reports has been undertaken by RLC and RLC has in exercise of its statutory authority approved reticulation proceeding, it is time for the focus to be very firmly on lobbying RLC for the lowest possible price roughly equivalent to an OSET system and for the longest possible funding period through rates.

The LTRA committee has engaged with and listened to members of the Lake Tarawera Community Group – Claire Stewart, Alison Walker and Dave Butler as well as Gordon Lewis, Duncan Evans (who put the petition to RLC) and Henry van der Heyden. We have clearly heard their concerns about cost of connection and acknowledge them.

All members of the community ultimately want the same thing, the preservation of lake water quality and the protection of the wider Tarawera environment for future generations.

The community has been divided on the issue of cost and funding must be the focus. Now is the time for the community to come together in support of the common goal.

The LTRA committee are working towards forming a funding sub-committee, in terms of Rule 10 of the LTRA Rules, which will be charged with seeking further funding for the scheme and reducing the costs of connection but with lake water quality for the benefit of all being paramount. We would suggest six

(Continued on page 7)

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members, four from the membership of the LTRA and two from the LTRA committee. The terms of reference for the funding sub-committee require some thought and time to develop properly for the benefit of all. It is the committee's view it is important that we have mana whenua on this committee in a meaningful and not token way. Karen Walmsley represents Putaiki O Tarawera. We have been unable to engage or consult with Karen on the topic of a funding sub-committee and possible terms of reference due to the death of her uncle on Wednesday. Karen in turn will have to consult with Maori land block owners amongst others.

Such a funding subcommittee will achieve the representation desired by the community, and present a united face of the community to RLC on funding.

The LTRA committee's intention is to engage with potential members of the funding sub-committee and to draft terms of reference for it before the public meeting on reticulation on 28 January.

Cell Phone Tower

In early December 2022 Rotorua Lakes Council granted a resource consent to the Rural Connectivity Group for the construction of the Cell Tower to provide coverage to Lake Tarawera and the Buried Village.

On the morning of 18 April, Cabinet Minister Ginny Anderson visited the cellphone site. The tower went live, cell phone coverage now covers the Buried Village, Te Mu Road, Boat Shed Bay, and many parts of the lake. Unfortunately, there is still patchy coverage in certain parts of Spencer Road; residents who do not get coverage are resorting to the internet for cell phones.

Tarawera Landcare

Thank you to all the willing volunteers who come to the working bees. We now have groups working at Kariri Point/Rangiuru Bay Road. Some working bees during the winter had to be cancelled due to the weather but work continues there and the natives that have been planted over the last few years are thriving. We are very grateful for all the plants donated.

There is another dedicated team working every Wednesday at Otumutu Lagoon. The progress they have made has been amazing - clearing all the pest plants and replanting with natives is outstanding. Locals are thoroughly enjoying the walk from the Community Garden to Cliff Road, it is stunning.

The community garden continues to thrive and is regarded by Council as one of the best in the district.

Thank you to everyone who attends the working bees, your support is invaluable.

Tarawera Pest Control

Thank you to all the volunteers who fill the rat bait stations, due to the mild winter the rats have been very hungry. Rabbits continue to be a big problem and we can't lay poison because of dogs, the only way to deal with them is by shooting them which is problematical. There have been sightings of stoats unfortunately they are very difficult to catch. Richard Noke has managed to remove a number of wasp nests on properties around the community, he now has a bright pink beekeeper's suit to protect him whilst dealing with the wasps.

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Lake Tarawera Volunteer Fire Brigade

Thank you to our volunteer fire brigade, it is an incredibly tough job they do. They are a very dedicated team.

At the Spring Fair in October 2022, Todd McClay, the Rotorua M.P. held a sausage sizzle and the proceeds (\$500.00) were donated to the fire unit.

Please make sure that you check your fire alarms on a regular basis.

Security Cameras

The security cameras that are operating at the Buried Village are working well, particularly the number plate recognition one. There have been several undesirables visiting and I understand that the camera has been extremely useful in tracking down a person who was seen driving all over private property.

Spring Fair

The Spring Fair was held at Labour Weekend, a beautiful day. It was extremely well attended; people were happy to see the fair back after the break the previous year due to COVID. The Spring Fair Committee raised \$1,277.00 and this money has been donated to the Community Garden, The Sailing Trust, and Tarawera FM.

Thanks to the small Spring Fair committee for their hard work involved in putting on the fair.

Tarawera Sailing Trust

During the winter the Tarawera Sailing Trust held a fundraising event with Rob Waddell as a guest speaker. The evening was a great success, the hard work that went into organising this event certainly paid off as the funds raised have gone towards a new chase boat.

It is really pleasing to see the number of young sailors on a Sunday afternoon out on the lake enjoying themselves, and to see the numbers growing each year. Now the adults are sailing on Thursday evenings.

Thank you to the dedicated team for the great work they are doing.

Neil Callaghan

On 11 March 2023 Neil Callaghan passed away. Neil was a good friend to many at Tarawera and great contributor to the community, a past Chairman of the LTRA, and Life member, a member of the Lakes Community Board and for many years a committee member of the Lakes Water Quality Society. Neil is sadly missed.

Thank you to everyone in the community who gives so willingly of their time, this is why Tarawera is such a wonderful place to live and visit.

Thank you to the LTRA committee for your tireless efforts throughout the year, I really appreciate your support.



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WANTED

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



Please drop off to 214 Spencer Road,

AED's 1&2

(Heart Defibrillator)

Lake Tarawera Fire Station

(Secure external cabinet by front door
and in the crew's medical kit)

Stoney Point Reserve

151 Spencer Road

Lake Tarawera

Phone - 111

(Does not require phone reception)

for cabinet combination

from Ambulance

Communications 24/7

AED 3 The Community Hall

475 Spencer Road

Accessed through main door with key
from lock box or call George Gilmour
for key

027 282 9034

AED 4 At the Buried Village

AED 5 11 Rangiuru Bay Rd

(No phone needed)

This is the farthest house on the right of
Rangiuru Bay as you look out to the lake

Access across Rangiuru Bay Reserve or
down Rangiuru Bay Road

Private Property—Please Respect



Otumutu Lagoon Restoration



March 2020:

We started with a blackberry-infested mess that obscured the streambed and was generally unpleasant.

This infestation was cut down with hedge trimmers and no herbicides other than stump swab applied to the blackberry stumps.



January 2024:

This is the same view after clearing the streambed of debris and watercress which was impeding the stream flow.

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March 2020:

More blackberry in the same area, the bramble was in places over three metres high and had not been tackled in over 10 years.



March 2022:

The blackberry was cut down and mulched or piled up and composted. An unfortunate downside was exposure of the streambed as illustrated.

Later in 2022, planting with sedge, cabbage tree, kowhai and native grasses was successfully undertaken.



January 2024:

This is the same view as the two above now the sedge has grown and partially covered the streambed and provided shelter and protection for the trout which traverse the stream.

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March 2022:

This was the result after clearing the area prior to planting which had been badly infested with blackberry and willow.

We also dealt to a monster wasp nest here.



January 2024:

View from the same position showing the growth of native sedge and other native planting. Some blackberry has reappeared but will be dealt to.

March 2020:

Another angle illustrating the massive blackberry infestation.



January 2024:

The same view two years later with healthy growth of sedge and young cabbage trees.



Tarawera Sailing

Tarawera Sailing has had a full programme of our Learn to Sail sessions on Sunday afternoons and sailing for more experienced sailors on Thursday evenings.

Under the mentoring of Pat Thorpe and Carol Gilchrist, our young sailors are working their way through their sailing certificates, which are awarded on Regatta Day. Their progress is wonderful to see.

We have welcomed several new families to the club and it has been great to see the enthusiasm of our new young sailors and how their parents have quickly moved into club-day tasks and on the water roles.

We have had some stunning days and evenings on the lake. The fresh north-easterly conditions of early in the season made for some exciting sailing and some challenging conditions for the beginners at times. More recently the pattern has been light to moderate westerlies which has been great for on the water coaching using our new safety boat. Our young Sunday sailors now regularly have practice racing on a triangular course.

This season has seen the 'Return of the Vikings'. These two distinctive little boats provide exciting sailing alongside the larger boats when our youngest sailors step up from beginner lessons. We have also purchased a third Spiral (a scaled down Laser) from recent fundraising. The Spiral is a step up for confident young sailors and is also an introductory sailboat for adults.

Regatta Day

We are now looking forward to Regatta Day on Sunday 14 April 2024. This is a fun club day to close the season combining novelty competitions on the water with a race for each yacht class.

Needed

We now have a significant number of adults regularly sailing Lasers. Ideally, we would like to have our lighter sailors sailing Laser Radials, which have a smaller sail than the standard Laser rig. We are now on the lookout for additional Radial sails in good condition that we can purchase.

We are always seeking unwanted Laser yacht parts, such as centreboards, rudders, mast sections, booms, sails and battens to maintain our fleet. If you can assist with any of the above or have a Radial sail you would sell, please contact **Ray on 021 756560**.

We meet at Cliff Road at 2pm on Sundays during the season (November to April).

**Please contact Carol Gilchrist for all enquiries
Ph: 0274 423333**





Tarawera Sailing: King of the Lake

Wednesday 3 January 2024

It was a slow race this year, with little wind but nevertheless lots of fun and only 19 minutes between the first and last boat home.

Well done to Tasman Forbes came first just three minutes ahead of Blake and Noah Batten.

We have a new trophy for the Wing Foilers. Alas there was not enough wind this year for them to compete. Better luck next year.

A big thank you to the safety boats - Ray Gatland, Richard Bagnall and the Bates family who also had fun cheering on their own family sailors.

Well done to all sailors, safety boats and the onshore team.

The King of the Lake race is always a challenge! We look forward to seeing you next year.

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Working here with buyers and sellers is my passion and with over 12 years of experience, it has become my speciality.

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Jenny Donne | Rotorua Lakes Specialist
P 027 385 0566 E jenny.donne@bayleys.co.nz

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Redwood Forest: Fiona McAllister

Community Centre Update: Claire Stewart

Regular events

- * Tai Chi Weekly: **Thursdays at 2.00pm**
Contact Alison Walker for more info **07 362 8151 or 021 100 5425**
- * Friday Night Drinks: Every Friday from 5.30pm. All welcome. BYO drinks and nibbles

Working Bees on the hall buildings and grounds

Held the first Sunday of every month at 10.00 am.

Lake Kids

Regular catch ups planned. Join the Facebook group to find out more: www.facebook.com/groups/lakekids/.

Membership Fees

Thanks to all those who have paid fees. Fees go towards costs such as insurances, building warrant of fitness, electricity and general maintenance and are paid annually. The hall also generates a small additional income from renting the hall to members and non members. Members enjoy the benefit of having this facility in the community and invitation to attend the community events which are run here as well as a discounted rate for their own rental of the hall.

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](#).

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

Barbie Movie Night

(a pink time was had by all!)



BOPRC Freshwater Biosecurity Update

We are coming to the end of a very busy summer season on the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes, and Lake Tarawera attracted a large volume of recreational boaties who were out enjoying the great weather.

Following the discovery of the invasive Freshwater Gold Clam in the Waikato River in May last year, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Te Arawa Lakes Trust and Rotorua Lakes Council have been working collectively with Biosecurity New Zealand (MPI) to ensure locals and visitors alike are aware of what they need to do to protect the lakes.

You may have noticed an increased presence of biosecurity officers from Te Arawa Lakes Trust (TALT) at the Tarawera boat ramps. They have been actively engaging with boaties, inspecting vessels and trailers, and ensuring compliance with Rule 7.

TALT staff carried out over 300 boat and trailer inspections with all vessels passing. Boat and trailer inspections include a physical inspection of all parts of the trailer and vessel that might contain bilge water, freshwater pest fish or freshwater pest weeds. This is carried out onsite at boat ramps.

TALT staff also carried out over 500 Rule 7 compliance checks with 70% of inspected vehicles complying with the Rule 7 requirements. This represents a significant improvement in compliance with the collective Te Arawa Lakes compliance sitting at 40%.

Rule 7 of the Bay of Plenty Regional Pest Management Plan 2020 – 2030 requires that all occupiers of vessels or craft using a boat ramp with a self-certification checkpoint must complete a self-certification form and submit the form electronically or display it on the dashboard of the vehicle used to launch the vessel. Thank you to everyone who completed their self-certification forms.

As always, we appreciate your help to keep our lakes free of freshwater pests!

Te Wakaunua Te Kurapa

Biosecurity Officer (Aquatic Pests) – Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

HPAI (Avian Bird Flu): Thalia Sachtleben

Sandy and Graham van Praagh wanted to share that they recently participated in the five-yearly waterbird survey for DOC which involved transporting bird gurus around the lake edge gathering data for Lake Tarawera.

They learnt about Avian flu and wondered if like them, the local community had little awareness of this potential threat. Thalia Sachtleben has kindly put together the brief summary below.

Current state

Avian flu, also known as bird flu, or **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)**, has spread globally to all areas since December 2021 except Oceania.

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H5N1 has never been detected in Aotearoa New Zealand.

We are in Stage 1, the preparedness phase of an H5N1 response. The risk of H5N1 arriving in New Zealand is currently low but may change as the virus is detected in new regions.

What you need to do

For now, you can keep calm and carry on with agreed work programmes with a heightened awareness of infectious diseases.

Anyone who observes unusual mortality (three or more) in any wildlife should report to the **Biosecurity New Zealand Exotic Pest and Disease hotline on 0800 80 99 66**.

Do not touch or attempt to move any dead or dying wildlife. Call Biosecurity New Zealand in the first instance and follow their instructions. If Biosecurity New Zealand confirms there is no H5N1, then continue with business-as-usual management.

More information

See the DOC and MPI websites for more advice.

DOC website: [Avian influenza: Wildlife health \(doc.govt.nz\)](https://www.doc.govt.nz/health/wildlife/avian-influenza/)

MPI website: [High pathogenicity avian influenza and the risk to NZ | NZ Government \(mpi.govt.nz\)](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/health/wildlife/avian-influenza/)

Information about bird flu overseas: <https://www.woah.org/en/disease/avian-influenza/>

Thalia Sachtleben

Ranger, Biodiversity | Kaitiaki-Kanorau Koiora

Ahuriri Napier Office | Phone: 027 250 5778



This piece of equipment being used in Stage 1 of the Tarawera Reticulated Sewerage Scheme tipped off its trailer a couple of weeks ago on the corner of Spencer Road and Boatshed Bay, demolishing a fence and attracting a lot of amateur photographers. Unfortunately unlike the fence which was soon repaired, the machine was a write-off. (Image: Simon Briggs)

HELP STOP

Freshwater gold clam

The freshwater gold clam (*Corbicula fluminea*) is a small shellfish that reproduces rapidly. It can clog water pipes and may overrun native species. First found in the Waikato River in May 2023, it is an unwanted organism under the Biosecurity Act.

To stop gold clam from spreading to the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes we need you and any visitors that you have coming this summer - particularly from the Waikato - to do their bit and follow the rules.



Got guests coming from the Waikato?

There are specific rules that apply to users of the Waikato River in the 'controlled area' which covers from the Whakamaru Dam to the river mouth at Port Waikato, including Lake Karapiro.

- **No wake boats** from the controlled area can be used on Bay of Plenty waterways or other waterways in New Zealand.
- **All river users that have been in the controlled Waikato area must follow Check-Clean-Dry requirements** for any craft, gear (such as fishing and other equipment used to gather kai) and equipment (including water skis, wakeboards, and inflatable pool toys).
- **Any boat that has been in the controlled area in the last 30 days** must be cleaned at the designated wash station.

DESIGNATED STATION: The Wash Place, 38 Te Ngae Road, Rotorua ►



Protect the Rotorua Te Arawa lakes you love

The Bay of Plenty Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) 2020 – 2030 requires that all boat ramp users must certify that their vessel (boat, jet ski) and trailer are free from freshwater pests.

- Complete a self-certification form before launching. The self-certification form must either be submitted electronically or displayed in the vehicle and left at the boat ramp where the boat was launched.
- Self-certification stations are at boat ramps, with paper forms available to fill out or QR codes to complete the process online.

Throughout summer Biosecurity staff will be checking the boat ramps regularly for compliance.



To find out more on the latest rules and gold clam status go to
www.biosecurity.govt.nz/clam



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022 524 5741
John@tailoredbuilds.co.nz
Tailoredbuilds.co.nz

Fish & Game: Matt Osborne

It's been a great summer out on the lakes following two years of rough weather and Fish & Game have so far interviewed over 300 anglers on Tarawera throughout this period. Although the catching part has sometimes been challenging (that's what keeps us trying), fish have been in great nick.

But change is happening - the days are getting shorter, the nights longer, stags are starting to growl and the easter bunny is wrapping eggs furiously. There's also some changes about to happen out on Lake Tarawera.

Fish & Game will be on the water carrying out acoustic monitoring of the prey resource. This is another way of saying 'towing a powerful fish finder' along transects of the lake and recording data for analysis. From this we can see how the density of prey (smelt and bullies) once trout signatures (which are larger) are removed, changes seasonally (between autumn and spring) and between years. What we have seen over the last four years that we have been recording this data is that the autumn period, prior to lake-turnover is far more productive than during springtime. This is no doubt due to winter conditions providing a harsher environment within the lakes with less algae and zooplankton around. So, trout can take a while to build up condition post season opening in the spring and early summer.

Autumn is a special time of year for trout fishers. Mature fish in the three-plus age bracket are reaching peak condition in readiness for spawning and on the back of the fantastic growth conditions Lake Tarawera has provided this summer there will be some prime specimens available to catch.

(Continued from page 20)

The lake surface waters will soon be starting to cool, and trout will become more spread out through the water column and more targetable by trollers and they will also be coming into range of shoreline anglers as they begin to think about heading up the streams to reproduce.

It's a great time to enjoy a coffee while trolling a lead line with 10 colours out (45 ft depth) and a black and gold toby or your favourite tassie-style lure.

Trout Liberations

We are just starting our autumn fish releases into the Rotorua lakes. Tarawera is set to receive 3,000 fish over the autumn period, broken down monthly into March (1,000), April (1,000) and May (1,000, of which 500 will be tagged). Keep an eye out for the trout tanker.

The total liberation for the season is being held at 10,000 fish with 1,500 already released in February (our summer liberation) and a further 5,500 to be delivered over September and October.

Te Wairoa Trap

The days are really starting to draw in and it won't be long till we set up the Te Wairoa fish trap to monitor the winter trout spawning runs and start broodfish collection. This facet of our work is highly important as we have well over 50 years of data collected from this facility and all our rainbow broodstock are collected from this site. The fish trap is set at the end of March and will be run until the end of August. It is designed to hold all upstream migrating trout entering the Te Wairoa Stream so we can determine whether they are wild stock, or hatchery liberated and if so what year class and seasonal release they belong to. This is done through checking for fin clips/marks and tags. We then check whether the fish is male or female, measure and weigh each fish and evaluate against our preset broodfish selection criteria. If the fish does not reach the desired criteria, it is given a trap clip so we can identify it if it enters the trap again and is released upstream to continue its spawning journey. If a fish does reach our criteria of a given size for age determined from its mark or tag, it is taken back to the hatchery to assist us with the breeding program. We require around 200 brood fish (100 males and 100 females) to produce enough fertilised eggs to meet our stocking objectives. We try to select a number of brood fish from each of the collection months April – August to replicate a wide return period for offspring coming back into shoreline angling areas allowing for a positive angling experience over the winter.

If you are keen to get out angling and haven't yet purchased a licence, there's a whole range of options available. Check out these options from your local sports shop/ licence agent or via the Fish & Game website (fishandgame.org.nz).

**Tight lines and be safe on the water,
from the Fish & Game team.**

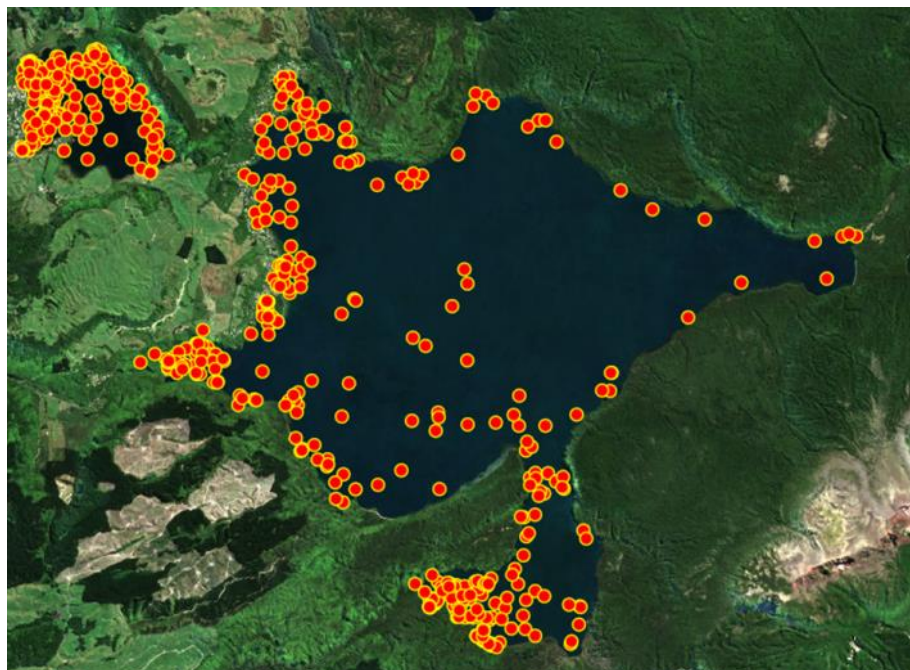
Duncan Evans with an early autumn 3 kg Rainbow trout



BOPRC Harbour Master Update March 2024

Kia ora koutou,

With summer officially done, I'm happy to report that it's been a great season with behaviour on our lakes much better than last year. It helped that we had superb weather too. There were some busy days, such as Waitangi Weekend, that were testing for everyone, but we got by with no significant accidents reported. Our patrol teams get to see some mind-boggling behaviour though, such as the gentleman who thought he would go scuba diving in front of the boat shed ramp on one of the busiest days of the year.



Our teams have done a fantastic job over the past six months educating boaties and keeping lake users safe. This was made much easier with feedback and help from the Tarawera community, so I'd like to say thanks to everyone that has supported our patrols and believes in the mahi we do. Check out our interaction heat map left.

Our new maritime vessel is in action

Just before Christmas we were privileged to receive our new patrol vessel '*Rua*'. Recently *Rua* has been working on Rotoiti and is about to start some navigation aid work on Tarawera. Summer weather events caused several navigation aids on Tarawera to move and break. We will be sorting these out in the coming weeks. Many thanks to those boaties that reported these issues to us. If you see a 5-knot buoy or any other maritime navigation aid needing attention, please let us know by calling 0800 5 KNOTS (0800 55 66 87).

Wear your lifejacket!

While PFD (Personal Floatation Device) or lifejacket compliance was good this year compared to other years, patrols still breached 45 individuals in the lakes area for failing to wear or carry an appropriate PFD. Remember, you need to wear a life jacket or PFD if you are in a dinghy, kayak, waka, or SUP or you face a \$200 fine. Boat drowning statistics make it abundantly clear you are far more likely to survive if you have your PFD on. So, please have them with you and wear them!

(Continued from page 22)

Navigation Safety Bylaws Review

These rules play a crucial role in minimising the risk of fatalities, injuries, accidents, and collisions on Bay of Plenty waters. We review the rules every five years.

Formal submissions for proposed changes to the Regional Navigation Safety Bylaws have now closed. The formal submission period was open from **8am on Monday, 18 December 2023 and closed at 4pm on Thursday, 29 February 2024.**

Hard copies of all submissions can be viewed at each Regional Council office. To read submissions online and view the draft Bylaw have a look here:

<https://www.participate.boprc.govt.nz/navigational-bylaw>

Hearings relating to the draft Bylaws will take place in **April 2024**, and Council will adopt the reviewed Bylaws in **August 2024** after considering all submissions.

Thanks again for being a supportive community!

Roly Bagshaw

Senior Maritime Officer – Maritime Team, Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

Always wear your lifejacket

Take enough for everyone and wear them unless the skipper says it's safe to remove.
Must be worn when crossing a bar.





Always carry more than one way to call for help

A cellphone in a waterproof bag along with a VHF radio, flare or beacon.



TO REPORT MARITIME HAZARDS, INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS
PH: 0800 5 KNOTS (0800 55 66 87)



For more information visit www.boprc.govt.nz/safeboating

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Ph: 07 345 9854 | E: office@telfermarine.co.nz | www.telfermarine.co.nz

Toi Moana

Safe to swim - water quality testing at Lake Tarawera

Over the summer period, Toi Moana Bay of Plenty Regional Council technicians are out weekly taking water samples at more than 95 coastal, river and lake recreation sites around the rohe (region).

The samples we collect are tested in our lab for *E. coli* or enterococci bacteria and/or for toxin-forming algae (cyanobacteria), and this monitoring information is supplied to [LAWA](#) and [Toi Te Ora Public Health](#).

LAWA use this data to grade the water quality using a traffic light system (green – suitable for swimming, orange – caution advised, red – unsuitable for swimming). Toi Te Ora Public Health is responsible for issuing public health warnings, which are based on their assessment of our data and the associated risks this may have to the community.

One of the spots we regularly test is Rangiuru Bay at Lake Tarawera. Not only is Rangiuru Bay a great place to enjoy a picnic or cruise in your boat, but its consistently excellent water quality results make it a safe place to swim. In fact, over the past five years 98% of samples have come back as 'safe to swim'.

Water quality can change at any time – especially after heavy rain or extended periods of warm weather (as this can cause potentially toxic algal blooms in some of the shallower Rotorua lakes).

Members of the public can check the most recent water quality results and local health warnings by visiting www.lawa.org.nz/swim



Local resident Murray Dillner watches on as the *gingko* is removed.

They say you can't make an omelette without breaking eggs and sadly this lovely *gingko* tree on the corner of Spencer Road outside the fire unit had to go to make way for a pumping station as part of Stage 1 of the Reticulated Sewerage Scheme.



PLANNING AN EVENT, OR NEEDING OPERATIONAL SUPPORT?

Let us handle the details, planning has never been this smooth.

Conference & Event Management | Specialist in Exhibition and EXPO Management |
Parties, Cocktail Parties and Special Occasions | Operations and Project Management

We work nationally, and as a generational property owner at Lake Tarawera,
we are now delighted to serve the local community.



Call Tori to discuss your requirements: M: 021 2255867 E: tori@victoriaave.co.nz

Rotorua Lakes Council—LONG TERM PLAN

HALF
FULL



Optimist

IT'S FULL
(TECHNICALLY)

AIR
↘



Scientist

↖
WATER



Artist

Perspective is a wonderful thing.
What's yours?

Have your say on plans for
Rotorua for the next 10 years.

LTP PUBLIC MEETING:

Monday 22 April
5:30pm - 6:30pm
Lake Ōkāreka Fire Station
1 Acacia Road
Ōkāreka

For more information and to
submit your views head to:



rotorualakescouncil.nz/LTP

**ROTORUA
LAKES COUNCIL**

Long-term Plan 2024-2034

PUBLIC CONSULTATION STARTS 04.04.24

Rotorua Lakes Community Board: Phill Thomas

Kia ora koutou

I have just got back from a belated Christmas Holiday overseas, and wow! I left in summer and seem to have returned in winter. It is cold! But also beautiful fine autumn weather, and I'm looking forward to feijoa season! The end of daylight saving not so much.



ROTORUA LAKES
COMMUNITY BOARD
fb:@lakescommunityboard

We're entering a busy time for Local Government with Proposed Long Term Plans either out already (Regional Council) or about to be released (RLC, after Easter). A Long Term Plan is a roadmap for council for the next 10 years, where they lay out their vision for where they see the district being in a decade's time, so it's important that our communities all make their thoughts known. If something isn't in the Long Term Plan, it won't even be looked at by Council.

The Tarawera community has always been very proactive in providing feedback and making your needs clear to Councillors, it is therefore a shame that Council won't be holding a meeting to go over the proposed LTP at Tarawera. However, there will be one at Okareka, a number in town and also an opportunity to present submissions directly to Councillors.

For the first time in over a decade the Lakes Community Board has been completely cut out of discussions on the development of the proposed LTP, which can only be detrimental to our lakeside communities. While I don't know what will be in the Plan, it seems likely it will focus mainly on what the rates will be (rather than what services the community wants) and there could well be a reduction in services and amenities around our lakes. The Board's Devolved Funding is also under threat. This would be a huge loss to our lakeside communities, as this money has provided for many improvements around the lakes that Council otherwise would not have looked at doing. Over the last six years that we have had the funding we've provided playground equipment, planting, picnic tables and seating in our reserves, equipment including heat pumps for our community halls, AEDs throughout our communities, public toilet upgrades and more. The refurbishment of the Stoney Point toilets was funded by the Lakes Community Board (Council however has the responsibility for ongoing maintenance). I would ask you to please support the retention of Devolved Funding for the two Community Boards so we can continue to support you and improve facilities around our lakes.

One issue that has come up for Tarawera for several years now is the safety of people walking alongside Spencer Rd, especially to Stoney Point. There has been a strong desire expressed to see the footpath extended from where it currently ends down to the reserve. The Board has worked hard to get this work done, and I had thought we'd achieved financing for this at the last review of the LTP three years ago when the two Boards successfully lobbied for a 'Rural Roadside Improvement Fund' to be established. Valued at \$250,000 per year this was to be shared between the Rural and Lakes Community Boards. We had agreed that the first year's worth of funding should go to the Rural Board for Mamaku, where they had a street with sewerage running down its gutters, so we were looking to see the work at Tarawera done the following year. However, despite the title of the fund, Council went on to decide that every second year this money would be spent in the urban area, meaning instead of the Board getting the funding every two years, we'd now get it every four. To add insult to injury, the work in Mamaku still hasn't been done due to predicted cost increases, so while the Lakes Board should have access to the

(Continued on page 28)

(Continued from page 27)

fund for Tarawera this year, we are now looking at another two year wait at least, assuming the fund isn't cut from the current proposed Long Term Plan. You can see why we need your feedback on the LTP to be given to Council!

Tarawera has a history of providing strong representation at LTP consultations, and has had great success at getting Councillors to both understand and act on your community's needs, so please do get involved in this coming month of consultation.

Phill Thomass, Chair, Rotorua Lakes Community Board

email: rlcb@thomass.net ph: 0275 47 4455

Lake Tarawera Pest Control

Before our list of evil doers comes up, if you go to our refreshed website there is now a complete list of pests and their status with pictures: laketarawera.org.nz/pest-control/

Rats

I have been monitoring the numbers of rats over the summer and have come to the conclusion that despite intensive baiting, (I have seven stations on 3000 m²) the numbers of rodents, as evidenced by footprint counting, has not reduced. I realised there is a disconnect, until I did some research and found that this is not uncommon.

The bait we use is not a knock down bait, eat any and you are dead style, it is a safer bait that requires a number of visits to the bait and for the toxin to bioaccumulate in the body of the rodent to the point of death. The critical issue is if the rodent does this over an extended period of time the toxin dissipates between each meal and because of this they can happily consume bait without dying.

We have a limited amount of funding and as a result, a limited amount of bait, this information is a way to make our bait both go further and be more effective.

I am about to issue a new bait-use protocol based on the above information, this is called **Pulse Baiting**. Essentially, we will concentrate on two times of the year.

Early Winter: April/May, this is as it gets colder and food supplies dry up for rats, however, this timing may move depending on the ambient temperature.

Early Spring: September/October, as it gets warmer and rats are breeding and so are native species.

We are free to bait at all other times but to get the most effectiveness from our bait supply this is current best practice. I will encourage the use of box traps at other times of the year. I have a number of these to use. I will be monitoring this process and report on progress.

I am a sucker for a new rodent trap and am constantly amazed by the science companies are applying to the task of catching rodents and possums. I have a laundry list of traps I have trialled and they all have had varying degrees of success or failure. Ask me before you part with your hard-earned cash for a trap because I am bound to have tried it and can tell you if it will work or its just marketing BS.

(Continued from page 28)



The latest and so far, the greatest is the **NZ Autotraps A220**, a rechargeable battery-powered self-resetting DOC 200 style trap, as shown in the photos. Apart from being a little bit temperamental to set up and maintain it is my current favourite trap. Why?

Pros:

- It self-resets, it kills your rodent then releases it to kill the next one and the dead one brings in more rodents or possums. See image three.
- It has a bait pouch so doesn't need rebaiting for extended periods of time
- The battery is supposed to last for three months, my experience is that is ambitious especially in the winter but even two-three months is pretty damned good
- It will nail rats (as in the photo) or possums, not mustelids yet.
- Made in Whakatane, great if you have an issue, or want advice.

Cons:

- It is expensive at over \$400.
- They are perkable. I have painted mine this lovely shade of green with the fake camo to blend in rather than the stock lily white colour. You would be very, very annoyed if someone stole your trap.
- Sometimes they are a bit temperamental, I think this is weather related more than anything, electricity and moisture are not a good combo but these issues are being sorted.

As I said I think the A220 is the best of the current crop of Smart Traps www.nzautotraps.com

Rabbits

Rabbits continue to be a problem, I sometimes think there is a rabbit factory out there churning out new rabbits, as the local visitors thin I will do a cull.

Possums

I have had a steady stream of possums meet their end in my trap network, my perception is there are more than normal and they are definitely in better condition.

(Continued from page 29)

Feral Cats

No one has mentioned them being an issue ... let me know if it is.

Wasps

Interesting that wasps are not as bad as they have been in previous years, this time last year I had killed 24 nests and this season only five.

I heard a professional pest eradicator say the same, that there has been a diminished wasp density than in previous years. I still see them.

If you have a wasp nest tell me and I will come and kill it.

Mustelids

The best I can claim is to have seen one dead stoat on the road. They look so cute and fluffy but I suppose so did Hitler when he was a baby.

AGM

Unfortunately I am donkey deep in my day job so the AGM will need to wait. Happy Easter.

Ratmeister

Phone: 029 575 0943

Email: rats@eol.co.nz



A Query From a Bay View Road Resident—Can You Help?

Annabel Parkes asks if anyone knows what is the best portable wireless broadband modem for a holiday home at Bay View Road to get a stronger signal from the 4G tower that's best bang for your buck?



As it's quite sheltered she only gets two-three bars of signal. Or does anyone have any ideas or feedback for the Spark Portable Broadband Connection. (She was told it may not be strong enough and no better than hot-spotting the phone.)

If you can help please email Annabel at: murray.annabelnz@gmail.com

New Year's Eve Fireworks



**Thanks for another awesome fireworks display
P.J**

We loved it!

More about the succession plan in the Winter Phantom...

Recycling changes from 1 Feb 2024



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON RECYCLING GO
TO OUR WEBSITE

WWW.ROTORUALAKESCOUNCIL.NZ/RECYCLING

Can I recycle this?



Most Kiwis can now
recycle the same things from
home. Here's how you can
recycle right.

Recycling

✓ Here's what you can
put out for recycling.



Plastic bottles, trays
and containers numbered
1, 2 and 5 only



Food and drink tins
and cans



Paper
and cardboard



Glass bottles
and jars

Take off the lids, rinse out your dirty items,
and put them out for recycling.



Yes

✗ Here's what you can't
put out for recycling.



Compostable
packaging and
containers



Nappies
and sanitary
products



Lids from
bottles, jars
and containers



Fabric and clothing



Soft plastics



Polystyrene



E-waste



Coffee cups and lids



Aerosols



No

TIP: Before you put an item
in your rubbish bin, consider
whether it can be reused or
recycled elsewhere.

From Feb 1 2024 what you can recycle in NZ has changed. To avoid contamination of materials to be recycled, please familiarise yourself with **what can be recycled**. Our Tarawera Transfer station is a valuable community resource – let's not jeopardise it!

Can I recycle these?



Plastic bottles, trays
and containers numbered
1, 2 and 5 only



Food and drink
tins and cans



Paper and
cardboard



Glass bottles
and jars



Yes

Take off the lids, rinse out your dirty items,
and put them out for recycling.

Get up to date on recycling right at
www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/recycling

Message from Rotorua Mayor Tania Tapsell

Tēnā koutou,

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer, enjoying the best of what beautiful Tarawera has to offer.

Rotorua was hustling and bustling over the summer months with tourism bouncing back strongly. We've been fortunate our businesses have continued to invest in Rotorua over the past challenging years. One of our newest attractions is the Wai Ariki Hot Springs & Spa at the Rotorua Lakefront which I highly recommend.

We've also been making positive changes at Council and recently welcomed our new Chief Executive Andrew Moraes to our team. Andrew has come to us from Taupō District Council where he was the General Manager of Operations & Delivery. He is a Chartered Engineer and a graduate of the INSEAD Global Executive MBA Programme and has international experience in business, commercial developments, and organisational leadership. We're looking forward to working with him to deliver a better Rotorua for all.

In other big news we've started our Long-Term Plan. We're carefully planning for the next ten years to invest in the things that matter to you.

To minimise the financial impact on our community, Council will focus on delivering essential services well and we're proposing to delay or stop non-essential services and projects until a time when our community can more comfortably afford it.

Your feedback on our proposals will be important to ensure we're making the right decisions for Rotorua. In April, residents will have an opportunity to share their thoughts by providing feedback and/or making a submission during consultation. Check out our website then for more information.



**Kindest regards,
Tania**

Council's new Chief Executive,
Andrew Moraes, started with us in March.

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

Jane Spear: janespear2011@gmail.com

Karen Walmsley: taraweratrail@inspire.net.nz

Fiona McAllister: fiona@betterwords.co.nz

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:

George Gilmour 027 282 9034/07 362 8378 gilmour06@gmail.com

Deputy 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

We currently have five AED Defibrillators on Spencer Road:

1&2/ At Fire Unit– 151 Spencer Road 3/ The Community Centre 4/ The Buried Village

5/ On the front deck of 11 Rangiu Bay Road (last house on right of Rangiu Bay Reserve)