

# Kotahi Reo

## One Voice



**Whiria te Tāngata** Weaving the People Together

Autumn 2026



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PHOTO: Meg Lipscombe

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## Join Our Community Database

If you're not yet in our database and would like to be, email [ltra@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ltra@xtra.co.nz) and tell us you want to be added to the database to receive this quarterly newsletter!

## MEET YOUR LTRA COMMITTEE

Below you'll find the contact details for each of your LTRA committee members. We're always keen to chat about your ideas, feedback, or anything related to the lake, land, and lifestyle here at Tarawera.



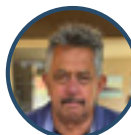
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# A minute with Dave

It seems when I write these intros to Kotahi Reo I turn them into a book review. Last time I talked about "Mindstuck" which was an excellent read about mastering the art of changing minds – a real skill as we know how set in our ways we become and resisting change is far easier than accepting it.

My latest favourite book is 'Belonging' by Owen Eastwood – I have become an absolute fan of Owen Eastwood – so much so that when I next am asked that dinner party question of "who living or dead would you most want to have dinner with" my answer would unequivocally be Owen Eastwood. Owen has no idea I have become his number one fan, but I might let him know and see if I can earn commission on the copies of his book, I have sold for him.

Owen started life in very humble beginnings as one of 4 born in Invercargill, losing his father when he was 5, being raised by his Mum, going to school and playing sport and going on to study law at Otago and then ending up as a lawyer in London.

He is now one of the most sort after Performance Coaches in the world. He has worked with the South African Cricket Team (Proteas), the English Football Team, the Nato High Command, the Royal Ballet in London and the European Ryder Cup team for the last two victories just to name a few. But he is the most modest and understated guru (he hates that term being attributed to him) that I have ever read or heard.

Owen has created his own way of working with these organisations from finding his own sense of belonging when he was aged 12. At the core of his thinking is Whakapapa – the Maori idea which embodies our universal need to belong. It represents a powerful spiritual belief – that each of us is part of an unbroken and unbreakable chain of people who share a sacred identity and culture.

At Lake Tarawera we have one of the greatest environments that creates an amazing sense of belonging which we are so lucky to be part of.

We might not all agree on every aspect and decision regarding our beautiful lake but most of us thank our lucky stars that we, or our

ancestors, found a place there.

I do wonder at times if some of our bureaucracies share the same sense of belonging. I am sure the majority are genuine in their pursuits. I have been lucky to be tasked with the role on LTRA to be the liaison with Rotorua District Council and their CEO Andrew Moraes. We meet quarterly and he is always receptive and keen to do the best he can to assist with our issues. We worked particularly closely on the sewage scheme, and he and his team were instrumental in helping the Working Group and LTRA achieve our goals, which everyone should be thankful for.

I would love however to sit down with the Regional Council and just listen to their purpose and goals for our wonderful Lake. I re read the very well-crafted and forgiving article by Grant Scobie in our very first edition of Kotahi Reo where he put a very humorous slant on his enterprising builder who made the fatal mistake of adding a couple of boards at the end of his jetty to make a ladder that swimmers could safely use to climb back onto the jetty – Grant was far more accepting than a lot of us would be.

I know of others that have received communications suggesting they need to go through a whole bureaucratic process of consenting because photos that were taken some years ago show they may have increased the length of their jetty when repairing (seems that the effects of Cyclone Gabriel making some areas around jetty's unsafe still does not stop the requirement of significant consenting).

Meanwhile the fact that Golden Clams could potentially destroy the lake we hold dear, doesn't seem to warrant more than a few signs.

I think it would be wonderful if we could use some of Owen's Whakapapa concept and have a good korero with Regional Council so they can explain what their sense of belonging involves and we could in return explain what the lake means to us. I know there are opportunities to make submissions to Long Term Plans etc but sometimes an old-fashioned fireside chat works wonders. If anyone is keen, I will happily try and facilitate. Would be great if we could focus on simple outcomes rather than expensive and detailed process and engagement.

If nothing else, I would love everyone reading this to read Owen's book – for me it was life changing – and if you are into podcasts listen to his 9 episodes on the Invincibles – the 1924 All Blacks – even if you are not into sport you will be spell bound.

Steele

**David Steele**  
*LTRA Committee Member*



## INVITATION FROM TŪHOURANGI TRIBAL AUTHORITY

On 10 June 2026, we mark 140 years since the eruption of Tarawera – a significant milestone in the history of Tūhourangi, Ngāti Rangitihi, and the wider landscape forever shaped by this event.

At 1:00pm, the renewed **Pou Maumahara** (pillar of commemoration), which was destroyed near Te Mū Road in March 2025, will be formally unveiled. All those attending are warmly invited to join us for light refreshments following the proceedings at the Buried Village Café.

From 7:00pm, the story of the eruption will continue through Tērā te Auahi, a powerful contemporary retelling presented at the Sir Howard Morrison Performing Arts Centre. This iwi-led production brings together rangatahi, whānau, and creatives from across the rohe to honour the resilience, history, and legacy of our people through theatre, waiata, kapa haka, and storytelling.

Tūhourangi Tribal Authority invite and welcome the residents of Tarawera to join us in these commemorations.

Tickets for the production can be purchased online at Ticketmaster: <https://www.ticketmaster.co.nz/te-whare-tapere-o-te-arawa-tickets/artist/4300634>



PHOTO: Roly Bagshaw  
Harbourmaster, Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana

## Harbourmaster Team Update – April 2026:

As our patrols slow down for the season, we can reflect on another very busy summer on our lakes. I am pleased to report that across our region we've had no serious boating or watercraft related injuries to report. I do however want to acknowledge the tragic swimming fatality on Lake Tikitapu and pass on our deepest condolences to whānau and friends. It's a sad reminder of the dangers our lakes can present.

### JETSKIS

The growth in popularity of Personal Water Craft (PWC), more commonly known as jetskis, continues, but owning one comes with responsibilities. If you are operating a PWC, please take the time to familiarise yourself with the local bylaws and navigation rules – they are there to keep everyone safe.

This season we've noticed an increase in PWC riders riding together as a group which presents significant risks if riders do not maintain a safe distance. The minimum separation distance while underway is 50 metres. Earlier in the season, a collision

between two PWCs resulted in one craft sinking. Fortunately, no one was injured but incidents like this reinforce how important it is for riders to follow the rules.

### BREACHES AND INFRINGEMENTS

Across the region Maritime bylaw breaches increased by 35% this season (Oct – Apr), with 667 breaches issued compared to 494 last year. In Rotorua, breaches increased by 89% with a high percentage being infringements handed out to paddleboarders for not having or wearing a PFD (Personal Flotation Devices).

If you are on the lake in any paddle craft and

you are not wearing, or at least carrying, a compliant lifejacket, you are highly likely to receive a \$200 infringement notice. The rules will become even stricter with the incoming Navigation Safety Bylaw, which will require lifejackets to be worn on all vessels under 6 metres while underway, including paddle craft.

### RENTAL ACCOMMODATION AND VISITOR SAFETY

Visitors staying in rental accommodation are often provided with kayaks and paddleboards for guest use. While this is great hospitality, it can also pose a safety risk if guests are not experienced or aware of local rules or conditions.

If you are providing water activities with your accommodation, we strongly recommend that you:

- Provide lifejackets for guests and clearly instruct them to wear them
- Supply dry bags for phones
- Leave a copy of Boating in the Bay outlining local boating rules (available from any BOPRC office)

Please also remind guests that local navigation rules are displayed at boat ramps, and that weather conditions can change rapidly - something that has caught many people out in the past.

### FINAL WORD

Thank you to everyone who has stopped to say kia ora to our patrol teams. Your support is greatly appreciated.

To report navigational hazards or dangerous behaviour, call: 0800 5 KNOTS (556 687)



Written by Roly Bagshaw  
Harbourmaster, Bay of Plenty  
Regional Council Toi Moana



**“I’M NOT GOING FAR”**



***No lifejacket  
No excuse***





PHOTO: Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana

## Freshwater Biosecurity Update – Autumn 2026:

The work to help stop the spread of invasive freshwater pests into, and between, the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes continues, and it's encouraging to see the increasing involvement and support of the local lakes communities.

### CHECK, CLEAN, DRY, CERTIFY COMPLIANCE

Across the lakes, boat ramp biosecurity behaviour is consistently high with 97% of all boats physically inspected this summer demonstrating good vessel hygiene. Given it only takes one boat with one fish egg or a strand of weed to cause a new infestation, anything less than 100% means there is more to be done in ensuring people do the right thing every time they move between waterways.

Forty eight percent of all vehicles that were checked at the boat ramps this summer had completed the self-certification compliance process\*\* which is nearly double last year's

result. The results of the self-certification forms completed by boat ramp users with the help of the Ōkāreka and Tarawera residents working with LOCA are still to be received but when added to the total, the final scores will be even higher.

\*\* Self-certification compliance is measured by comparing self-certification submissions completed (either online or by using paper forms at the boat ramps) and comparing them against the checks made at the boat ramps.

### TRACKING TRAFFIC TO GAIN INSIGHTS

Over the 2026 Easter weekend, Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Te Arawa Lakes Trust

conducted a traffic survey on Tarawera Road to monitor vessels entering the Ōkāreka, Tikitapu, and Tarawera lakes. The survey was undertaken to gain insights that will help council plan the potential requirements if washdown facilities were provided in the future to better protect our lakes.

A total of 415 vessels were recorded over the five-day period, with the busiest day (153 vessels) being Good Friday. Analysis showed a consistent peak traffic window between 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM, with outboard motors and paddle craft (kayaks, waka, and SUPs) being the vast majority of the vessel types observed.

### CHANGING LAKE USER BIOSECURITY BEHAVIOUR

As part of the ongoing efforts to ensure everyone undertakes the right boating behaviour - Check Clean Dry Certify (CCDC) before moving between lakes, Bay of Plenty Regional Council undertook an advertising campaign. Consisting of social media advertising, ads in the Daily Post, radio ads and digital ads in petrol stations in locations on the way to the Rotorua Lakes.

This year for the first time a team from The Hits radio visited various lakes to educate at the boat ramps. Announcers shared the CCDC messaging on air while the radio ads extended the reach.

Written by Rex Fairweaether,  
Biosecurity Officer Marine &  
Freshwater, Bay of Plenty  
Regional Council Toi Moana



## KEEP INVASIVE FRESHWATER CLAMS AWAY

Invasive freshwater clams (previously known as gold clams) can produce up to 400 offspring a day, around 70,000 a year and they are self-fertilising! Once they reach a new location they take over, clog water pipes and compete with native species for food and habitat.

**Coming from the Waikato or Taranaki? Keep the clams out of the lakes!**

There are rules in place for anyone coming from Taranaki or the Waikato River to the Te Arawa lakes and additional requirements for anyone wanting to go to Lake Ōkataina. To find out more about the clam, the rules in place, or report a suspected sighting go to MPI website [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/clam](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/clam)



CHECK

CLEAN

DRY

- Remove plant material and drain all water.
- Washdown your gear, vehicle, vessel and trailer with tap-water onto grass – never into storm drains.
- For absorbent materials (life jackets, wet suits) clean with either hot water, freezing, or soaking in diluted 5% bleach or saltwater solution.
- Allow gear to dry inside and out, then leave for 48 hours.
- Dry vessel areas where water has pooled, then leave for 48 hours.

CERTIFY

- You must certify your vessel, trailer, and gear are free of freshwater pests.
- Self-certify online via the QR code at boat ramps or the council website or use the paper forms.
- Paper forms: Skippers must complete, sign, and display it on the dashboard of the towing vehicle.

To find out more, visit the website or scan the QR code. ▶





boprc.govt.nz/check-clean-dry

Be a waterway hero this summer! **Check Clean Dry and Certify** every time you move between the rivers and lakes you love to stop the spread of freshwater pests.



PHOTO: Rotorua Lakes Council  
Mayor Tapsell

## Message from Her Worship the Mayor, Tania Tapsell

### **Greetings Lake Tarawera residents!**

Tēnā koutou te hapori ō te roto ō Tarawera

We express our congratulations to Mitch Collins and George Gilmore on their success in the recent by-election and warmly welcome them to the Rotorua Lakes Community Board.

Mitch and George join Peter MacMillan and Jennifer Rothwell in representing our beautiful lakes communities, with Mitch also stepping into the role of Chairperson. Both bring strong local connections and commitment to their communities, and we look forward to working alongside them to continue delivering positive outcomes across our district.

At Council, we've recently adopted our 2026/2027 Annual Plan, with a strong focus on

affordability for our community. Through careful decision-making, we identified \$6 million in savings, reducing the proposed rates increase from 10.8% to 6.8%. This increase is largely driven by essential investment in transport and water infrastructure, required under Government regulations. While these have not been easy decisions, they are necessary to ensure we continue delivering reliable core services and are planning responsibly for our district's future.

As there are no significant changes from what was outlined in the 2024-2034 Long-Term Plan for this financial year, formal community consultation is not required. Instead, we'll focus on responding to Government reform proposals and progressing the development of the 2027-2037 Long-Term Plan, which will include full community engagement.

We've actioned feedback from the community for improved parking services and recently confirmed Orikan as our new provider. From July, you'll begin to see changes throughout the inner-city as we move to a new model. We previously decided not to continue with the fully outsourced iPark contract and will instead bring services back in-house while leasing modern parking technology through Orikan.

This change will include new machines and apps, simplified parking zones, revised fees, and a dedicated in-house parking team. All current parking rules and charges will remain in place until 1 July 2026, with more details to be shared in the coming months.

As always, you can stay up to date through our website and social media, and we look forward to connecting with you at community events throughout the year.

Kindest regards,  
Tania Tapsell  
Her Worship the Mayor of Rotorua

Written by Tania Tapsell  
Her Worship the Mayor of Rotorua



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PHOTO: Meg Lipscombe

## Tarawera Sewerage Scheme Lump-Sum Payment Process:

Payment options for those currently paying for the new Scheme via their rates invoice. If you've already paid the full \$36,600 this notice DOES NOT apply to you.

As you will be aware the ratepayer cost for a single simplex connection to the Tarawera Sewerage Scheme has been rated at a capped \$36,600 incl. GST and invoiced (as below) on a quarterly basis.

Annual rate (All figures include GST)		Total Rate	Annual Rate	1/4 payments
Rate 1	Tarawera Sewerage Scheme Rate Stage 1	\$17,701.00	\$1,371.00	\$342.75
Rate 2	Tarawera Sewerage Scheme Rate Stage 2	\$18,899.00	\$1,465.00	\$366.25
Rate 1 + 2	Stage 1 and Stage 2	\$36,600.00	\$2,836.00	\$709.00

This is payable to Council by either a lump sum or a term payment via your rates invoice over a period of up to 25 years. As with any term payment plan the annual rate includes an interest charge in the same way as banks do on a mortgage.

### REMINDER:

For those currently paying via their rates invoice there are two payment options.

Option 1. Continue your term-payments via your rates on a selected frequency over 25 years.

Option 2. Switch one or both rates from term payments to a lumpsum\*\* at any time during the 25 years.

\*\*See Important Note # 3 below

### OPTION 2 CONDITIONS:

- Council will credit all capital payments made prior to paying any lump sum.
- If a lump sum is paid before 30 June 2026 a

full year one credit for the selected rate will be applied without any interest deduction.

- If either lump sum is paid in subsequent years a 6% annual funding fee will be deducted from the credit

**IF YOU CAN AFFORD TO DO SO OPTION 2 IS THE CHEAPEST IN THE LONG TERM AND WE RECOMMEND YOU SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THIS.**

The reason we recommend this is that the interest component in the payments you have made since 1 July 2025 will be credited back to you and therefore 100% of all year one payments will be offset against the rated \$36,600. If you choose to make lump sum payments after the 30 June 2026 then there will be an interest component on all payments made.

**LUMP SUM PAYMENT PROCESS – AGREED WITH COUNCIL:**

1. Ratepayers can now request a lump sum invoice for one or both rates, which will be issued after your year one 4th quarterly rate has been paid.  
NB: The 4th quarterly rate invoice is due out late April and payable by 20 May.
2. Ratepayers can request a lump sum invoice at any time and if you have paid the current year in full Council will produce this invoice on the day.
3. If you plan to pay your 4th 2025/2026 instalment on the 20th of May, Council will hold your details and produce the invoice from the 21st of May.
4. The invoices will state the lump sum payment date as latest 30 June 2026.

**SO DO IT NOW – AND PAY IN LATE JUNE.**

Council contact details to pay a lump sum – email: [info@rotorualc.nz](mailto:info@rotorualc.nz) – Phone: 07 348.4199

**IN SUMMARY**

- ASAP, notify the Rotorua Lakes Council rates department requesting an invoice for the balance owing at 30 June 2026.
- Ensure you receive an invoice, which for the majority of ratepayers should be \$33,764 incl. GST.
- Ensure you pay this invoice no later than the 30 June 2026.

**RESPONSIBILITY**

It is every individual ratepayers responsibility to advise Council if they wish to pay a lump sum. If you DO NOT contact Council they will assume you wish to remain on quarterly payments.

**IMPORTANT NOTES**

1. The annual rates (charged on a term basis) are set for the full 25 years and include a funding component at 6% like a bank mortgage.
2. If you elect to pay on a term basis over 25 years the total cost will be \$70,900. (\$2,836 x 25 years)
3. Lumpsums: You can only pay off either rate 1 or rate 2 or both. Council will not accept smaller capital payments.
4. You can pay off one full stage now and the other at any time during the 25 years, but again it is individual ratepayers responsibility to advise Council at that time.
5. The rates advised in this communication are based on a single simplex installation that applies to most properties.  
–For those with empty lots and only paying for stage 1 via their rates, then only the stage 1 figures apply.  
–Those with duplex pumps or more complex installations will be subject to different costs and should contact Council directly.
6. If you are concerned about affordability .... contact Council directly to discuss options such as rates postponement.



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# BUILT BY LOCALS, FOR LOCALS



For John and Steve, building has always been part of who they are.

John grew up at Lake Tarawera with a builder for a dad, while Steve was raised around the timber industry and developed a passion for craftsmanship early on. Decades later, the pair are now building and renovating homes for locals across the lakes they call home themselves.

With more than 40 years of combined experience, Tailored Builds is known for quality workmanship, practical thinking and a hands-on approach that makes the process feel personal from start to finish. Because for John and Steve, it's never just been about building houses, it's about creating homes that fit the way locals live, built with care, experience and a genuine love for what they do.



**Got a project in mind?  
Get in touch for a chat.**

**John Goad 022 524 5741  
Steve Webb 027 300 9804**





PHOTO: Geoff Thomas  
This rainbow jack caught in 1927 is close to 20 pounds, and was only three years old

## Autumn '26: Cast Your Line

**The essence of Lake Tarawera is the big fish, from Connebar when Dr Peter Mylchreest was studying the fishery in the 1970's to the 10-pounders which are still the ultimate prize.**

Peter, a fisheries scientist from British Columbia, worked with the Wildlife Service when Pat Burstall was the Conservator and created the 'Big Fish' programme which was aimed at increasing the size of Tarawera trout. He believed there was a distinctive genetic family of fish unique to the Outlet, similar to a situation in BC where the trout spawned in an outflowing river. One very large jack fish from the Outlet was taken to the Hatchery as brood stock, and named Connebar. Peter believed the Outlet fish had a longer snout than others in the lake. His work was based around fish that matured to spawn at four years old, rather than the normal three, and that extra year of growth produced bigger fish. That is all history now.

But we don't see many double figures (10lb or 4.45kg) today. All of those trophy fish from the 'old days' were three-year-old mature adults

spawning for the first time, and if they reached that size today they would show up in the fish trap on the Te Wairoa Stream. From around 2300 adults weighed during the winter none have recorded 10lb in the last few years. Although we may see one or two this winter, as the growth of the two-year-old fish has been better than in the past. Today, the average spawning fish is just over 3kg (6.6lb).

The impressive growth of trout from earlier times is no better illustrated than when we were filming our first TV series (which was never seen in NZ, but that is another story). I had an American actor as the guest, a bloke called Craig Huebing who starred in a show called General Hospital. The object was to catch a big trout to showcase the fishery. Well, he hooked a 10-pounder on a lead-line and black toby off the point heading round to Humphreys. And

the trout had a tag in its back, so we went to the hatchery at Ngongotaha and filmed the manager, Len Newman, telling the story of that individual fish. We caught it on December 16, 1983, and it had been put in the lake on September 16, 1982. We put that big trout next to a fingerling – which was the size at which it had been put in the lake – and it had grown from about 40 grams to 10 pounds in 15 months. What better way to show what an amazing fishery we had at Tarawera.

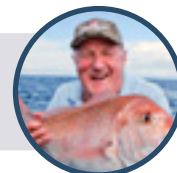
Many of the Tarawera homes have dusty old mounted trout on the walls, fish of 13, 14 or more pounds. A lot came from the Outlet in the 1960s and 70s.

The jack fish pictured was caught in 1927, supposedly by a Captain Gordon, an English officer who used to come here to fish, and the story that came with the mount tells how he caught it off the first point on the right across the bay from the Landing; which used to be called Gordon's Point. I imagine he would have been fly fishing from an anchored boat. What I am not sure of is the story behind the carved board; but I imagine that a bottle of wine and

some good company would produce a suitable tale. The weight is also undetermined, but on viewing it many experienced anglers agree that it would have nudged 20 pounds. And that is still a maiden (unspawned) trout; only three years old.


So much for the 'good old days'; but they are long gone. More important is today, and those yet to come.


Written by Geoff Thomas  
*The Outdoors Adventurer*



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027 631 1970



PHOTO: Meg Lipscombe

## Pest Control – Autumn 2026

### RATS

Rats are proving to be troublesome, this time of year it is normal for rats to seek winter accommodation. A number of people have mentioned rats in their ceilings, every one of these instances I have investigated the rate entered via overhanging foliage touching the roof or a power line entering the house where there is roof access. If you have rats in your roof the first thing to do is check overhanging branches or foliage or power lines. People often think rats crawl up the walls because they hear them in the walls sometimes. This is usually because the walls are open to the roof space and the rodents can get in from above. A modern house doesn't have access from the bottom to the top because of nogs in the way.

I am getting some really good information about rodent activity from our tracking tunnels and trail cams, the two stand outs so far are:

- There are shed loads of hedgehogs, way way more than I had thought.
- Some possums have adapted to be able to hook out our rat bait from traps.

# If you asked me for more bait and I haven't given it to you can you come back again as two pages in my note book got munted and I can't read them.

### MICE

We are having a minor mouse plague, I am certainly seeing them and seeing the results of their presence in my shed. Mice are really hard to control, although our rat bait does a good job, mice breed prolifically and can out run the bait effectiveness. I think the best option is to use snap traps inside and our normal bait outside. Mice come in waves that quickly subside in response to food availability.

### WASPS

Compared with 2025 where I killed 32 nests this last season I have killed only 7. I have no reason why this is and anecdotally there are less wasps.

**VESPEX:** Lots of people come to me thinking that Vespex wasp bait ( the blue bait we use in the yellow traps ) is a silver bullet for wasp control. Thinking if we spread it around the wasp problem would be gone. Vespex is a really great product but it has a very narrow window

of effectiveness. Its efficacy revolves around utilizing a change in wasp diet from sugar to protein. Wasps start their season eating sugar then move quite late to protein and then revert to sugar again and it doesn't all happen at the same time with every wasp. There are so many variables in this process, weather, food supply, population density. Some years the targeting works well and other years it is patchy.

Short answer is that Vespex is another tool in the box but not the only one.

### POSSUMS & WALLABIES

I have been happily reducing the possum population but wallabies remain elusive, I had one in the garden the other night and by the time I had my rifle out it was long gone. I don't like to think we have to live with them but Wallabies are incredibly hard to control.

Written by Rat, Mouse & Possum Meister



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PHOTO: Meg Lipscombe

## Lake Security – Autumn 2026

As winter settles in, shorter days and colder nights bring a new set of challenges for keeping homes, properties, and our community safe.

### Seasonal Security Risks

Winter often sees an increase in opportunistic crime. Longer hours of darkness can provide more cover for intruders, while holiday travel and time away from home can leave properties vulnerable. It's important to stay vigilant, especially during early evenings and overnight hours.

A recent event towards the end of Spencer road took place where opportunistic thieves took advantage of an unoccupied, isolated home and broke in. While they didn't get away with anything of great value it is still very unsettling knowing these people are entering our community. This current case is still with the police and I have provided camera footage of vehicles around the time of the event.

### Lighting Matters More Than Ever

Well-lit properties are one of the simplest and most effective deterrents. Check that all exterior lighting is functioning properly, and consider installing motion-sensor lights around entrances, driveways, and darker areas of your property.

### Secure While You're Away

If you're heading off for a winter break, take a few precautions before you go:

- Ensure all doors and windows are securely locked
- Let me know if you are planning on being away from the lake for an extended period
- Make sure any security lights/cameras are operating as they should be
- Keep all valuables, even fuel, boat toys etc, hidden from view in garages and houses.

Lake Security can also provide scheduled property checks to give you peace of mind while you're gone.

## Community Awareness

A strong community is one of the best defenses against crime. Stay connected with your neighbours, report suspicious activity, and don't hesitate to reach out if something doesn't feel right. Working together helps create a safer environment for everyone.

## Our Winter Services

This season, Lake Security continues to offer:

- Mobile patrols and alarm response
- Property inspections for vacant or holiday homes
- Community security support
- Short term security cameras installed on your property

## Stay Safe This Winter

Your safety is our priority. If you'd like to review your current security setup or learn more about how we can help protect your property this winter, get in touch anytime.

Cheers,  
George

Written by George Gilmour  
Lakes Security  
027 282 9034 07 3628 378  
gilmour06@gmail.com



Kia ora everyone,

I would like to start by saying a massive thank you to everyone in the community who voted for me and helped me get onto the Lakes Community Board, it is a great honour and privilege to be able to represent Tarawera and our other lakes in the district.

We are two months in since the election ended that saw both myself and Mitch Collins elected to the board. Mitch was elected chair with me as his deputy in our first meeting and we are finding our feet quickly, how we intend to operate and communicate with the communities we represent.

One of our first priorities is to get in touch and begin coordinating with local community associations. This will be crucial moving forward to keep up to date with everything happening around our lakes and what projects need priority, funding and fighting for. I will be working closely with the LTRA in advocating for Tarawera when it comes to council issues and projects, that includes both local and regional council.

Two major issues the Lakes Community Board have identified is isolated community resilience in the face of natural disasters/storms alongside all round civil defence readiness. We have made submissions to Regional Council for their long term plan highlighting these issues, flooding being at the forefront.

As we progress and further settle in to our roles we will endeavour to keep the communities up to date with regular correspondence, in the meantime if you have any issues you would like to discuss please feel free to get in touch.

Cheers,  
George Gilmour

Written by George Gilmour  
Deputy Chair - Rotorua Lakes  
Community Board  
027 282 9034 07 3628 378  
george.gilmour@rotorualc.nz





## Lake Tarawera Sailing: Season Summary

**Lake Tarawera Sailing wrapped up a memorable 2025/26 sailing season at the end of March. New families continued to join us throughout the season providing our largest cohort of beginner sailors for many years. It was wonderful to see several local families sailing for the first time this season, and we also continue to attract new families from Rotorua and beyond.**

New volunteers and sailors quickly learn how we operate and we absolutely rely on everyone's contribution to the sailing programme, rigging, coaching, managing races, safety boat duty and packing up. This wide participation creates a fun, supportive atmosphere that appeals to all ages.

Our learn-to-sail coaching programme puts beginner sailors in control of their own sailboat on Day 1. Over the season our new sailors attain confidence in often challenging lake conditions and experience the exhilaration that comes with first sailing independently and then racing alongside others.

Our racing programme stepped up a level this season. We frequently ran three sets of match races concurrently (Firebugs, Microns and Lasers), and on one perfect February club day Patrice Gatland and Carol Gilchrist ran 32 short course races. The beach starts, the buoy rounding action and the hooter as the sailors sprint across the line creates an atmosphere of continuous excitement.

When they are not sailing, sailors are ashore learning topics such as safety practices, knots and boat rigging, enabling them to achieve a succession of sailing certificates.

The club's unique character established by Pat and Ian Thorpe in 1999 remains as popular as ever. It is amazing to see families who contributed to the club's foundation and the construction of the club sailing shed all those years ago, still involved today.

### Regatta Day - 29 March 2026

Regatta Day is the season celebration and the final day of sailing. The club takes over the whole of Cliff Road Reserve. Sailboats are packed along the beach, semaphore flags are strung, the odd pirate or two can be spotted, and a barbeque plus refreshments operate all day.

It was an entertaining day of non-stop action on the water and lively competition. Regatta Champions were decided in each of three sailboat classes, including a fleet race for the adults. At one point Dave "Hook" Townsend challenged the crowd of young sailors to board his pirate dinghy which ultimately sank with 14 aboard. As always, the Pirate Team's race, and the pairs Lottery Race were highlights; events where the normal rules of sailing cease to apply!

### Prize Giving

We finished the day with club prize giving. Awards and trophies were presented by Jenny Donne of Bayleys Realty - a long-time donor and passionate supporter of the club.

Season's awards reflect sailing skill, course work, racing achievements and club day contribution. Congratulations to all our sailors who made this such a great season.

**Season's Racing Award:** Jack Schulte

### Season's Top Sailors:

Junior	Evelina Flynn
Intermediate	Freddie Flynn
Senior	Emily Packham

### Season's Most Improved Sailors:

Junior	Griff Roberts / Dylan Houlton (Joint)
Intermediate	Millie Houlton
Senior	Jonty Barbour
Adult	Kate Kerr / Leeza Graevskaya (Joint)

### Excellence Racing Certificates

Frida Hamilton, Poppy Roberts, Daniel Schulte, Spencer Stewart, Tom Turner

**Senior Skippers Certificate:** Elsie Papps

### Regatta Championship Races:

Junior (Firebug)

1st	Arthur Verba
2nd	Stanislav Selnitskiy

Intermediate (Micron)

1st	Frida Hamilton
2nd	Emily Packham

Adult (Laser)

1st	Erin Schulte
2nd	Garth Williamson

Our special thanks to Iris Harvey, David Honore and Richard Packham from the LTRA who ran the barbeque (sponsored by PAK'nSAVE Rotorua), and also Tony Perks on safety boat, Garth Williamson on paddleboard, and Claire Stewart who spoke thanking the club on behalf of the families.

Finally, our heartfelt thanks to Carol Gilchrist and Pat Thorpe for their superb preparation and running of Regatta Day 2026.

**Tarawera Sailing meets at Cliff Road at 2pm on Sundays during the season (November to April). Please contact Carol Gilchrist for all enquiries. Ph 0274 423333**

Written by Ray Gatland, Tarawera Sailing







# ANZAC Dawn Service 2026

Conducted by Te Arawa Māori Returned Services League Inc

PHOTO: Rose

## ANZAC Day Dawn Service

**Honouring our ANZACs is about more than remembering the past; it is recognising the courage, sacrifice, and enduring legacy of those who served.**

From Gallipoli in 1915 to more recent conflicts and peacekeeping missions who showed resilience, unity, and mateship in the face of hardship. Their service reminds us of the cost of freedom and the values that continue to shape our identity today. It calls us to reflect, listen to the stories of veterans and their whānau, ensure their experiences are not forgotten, and to act with respect, contribute positively to our communities, and strive for peace.

For us at Tarawera, this remembrance is deeply local and lived. Many of us have loved ones who have served, both on the front lines and behind the scenes and we carry their stories with us. In our close-knit community, we honour this legacy by supporting whānau, fostering a strong sense of belonging, and caring for our environment – building a peaceful and resilient community. We

uphold these values through kindness, respect across generations, and by acknowledging those among us who have served.

For our tamariki, it is an opportunity to connect history to identity – understanding that the freedoms they enjoy today were shaped by sacrifice. Through reflection, storytelling, and participation in local commemorations, we ensure this legacy continues.

In living these values every day, we ensure remembrance is not just a moment, but a way of being.

Lest we forget

Written by Iris Harvey,  
LTRA Committee







**Anzac Day**

Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou - We will remember them

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## GET INVOLVED

Help us spotlight what makes our community unique. We're looking for genuine stories—personal anecdotes, historical moments, or event recaps—that capture the heart and soul of our lake, land, and people.

### Showcase your Photos

Send us your high-resolution photos that embody the spirit of our community to be featured!

### Great Neighbour

Do you know someone who's going above and beyond or just being an all-round great neighbour? Let us know! Whether it's a grand gesture or a quiet act of kindness, we want to shine a light on the wonderful people making a difference in our community. This is your chance to say thanks very much.

### Nothing's a Secret

Got a funny story or a hilarious moment to share? We all love a good laugh, and there is always something unfolding that would be a laugh to share... particularly those moments you may have witnessed that your neighbour might prefer went unseen... Please share it with us! Let's keep it light-hearted, just make sure the 'hero' of the story is anonymised or given a pseudonym. It's all in good fun, after all.

When you contribute, you're not just helping to fill a newsletter; you're actively shaping something that truly reflects the spirit of our community. Every submission makes a real difference, especially since we're all volunteers here.

And as a little thank you (and to spark some friendly competition), the best submission in any of our three categories will win a \$50 voucher to either Redwoods Butchery or Good Eastern!

So, get creative, share your stories, and help us make this issue truly memorable! We can't wait to hear from you.

Email [ltra@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ltra@xtra.co.nz)

## Heart Defibrillator Locations (AED's)

<b>Lake Tarawera Fire Station</b>	Stoney Point Reserve, 151 Spencer Rd	Secure external cabinet by front door and in the crews medical kit. Phone 111 (Does not require phone reception) for cabinet combination from Ambulance Communications 24/7
<b>The Community Hall</b>	475 Spencer Rd	Accessed through the main door with key from lock box or call George Gilmour for key ph 027 282 9034
<b>The Buried Village</b>	1180 Tarawera Rd	+07 362 8287
<b>Rangiuru Bay - Privately owned</b>	11 Rangiuru Bay Rd	This is the farthest house on the right of Rangiuru Bay Reserve as you look out at the lake. Access across Rangiuru Bay Rd. Private Property --- Please respect
<b>Privately Owned</b>	541 Spencer Rd	Corner of Spencer and Bayview Rd Situated on External wall at front door with all equipment required
<b>Privately Owned</b>	4 Bay View Rd	Available 24/7
<b>Solitaire Lodge</b>	16 Ronald Rd	Available Business Hours
<b>Privately Owned</b>	187 Spencer Rd	Available 24/7

## Helpful Numbers

<b>Emergencies</b>	Police Fire Ambulance	111
<b>Tarawera Fire Unit</b>	Chief Fire Officer George Gilmour	027 282 9034/07 362 8378 george06@gmail.com
	Deputy Fire Officer Steve Gatenby	0274 664 161 steve.gatenby@til.co.nz
	Station Officer Murray Dillner	021 290 0376 murraydillner@gmail.com
<b>Rotorua Hospital</b>		07 348 1199
<b>Lakes Primecare Accident / Urgent Medical</b>		07 348 1000 1165 Tutanekai Street, Rotorua
<b>National Poisons Centre</b>		0800 764 766 (0800 POISON) This is a free, 24/7 service for all New Zealanders
<b>Rural Delivery</b>	Jan & Glen Harmer	07 349 1254 022 153 6894
<b>Security</b>	George Gilmour	027 282 9034/07 362 8378 george06@gmail.com
<b>Rotorua Lakes Council</b>		07 348 4199
<b>Bay of Plenty Regional Council</b>		0800 884 880
<b>Department of Conservation</b>		07 349 7400
<b>The Buried Village</b>		07 362 8287 1180 Tarawera Rd
<b>Editor Kotahi Reo - One Voice</b>	Victoria Jantke	ltra@ltra.co.nz

## Have you visited the LTRA website yet?

The LTRA website can be found at [www.laketarawera.org.nz](http://www.laketarawera.org.nz)

### WHAT'S INSIDE

**LOCAL EVENTS:** Check the Community Calendar for upcoming gatherings, Spring Fair, and celebrations. Got an event? Easily submit it online to share it with the community!

**COMMUNITY GROUPS:** Find and connect with local clubs, associations, and volunteer opportunities.

**LOCAL NEWS AND UPDATES:** Stay informed on important issues, project updates, and announcements.

Archived Newsletters: Past issues of Kotahi Reo - One Voice and The Phantom.

We invite you to explore and make it your essential hub for all things community!

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## JUNE 2026

**8-12** Howard Morrison Centre - live performance entitled **Tērā te Auahi - depicting Māori life at Tarawera at the time of the 1886 Eruption**

**10** **140 Year Anniversary Mt Tarawera Eruption**  
**Tuhourangi Tribal Trust has issued an invitation for Tarawera Community to attend a ceremony at 1 pm at the Tarawera Lookout to unveil the new Pou, previously damaged and removed**

## JULY 2026

**10** **Matariki**  
**The Tuhourangi Tribal Authority has invited Community members to a Karakia at the Landing, pre dawn**  
**Regards Mike Allen**  
**+6421606134**

### Lake Tarawera Community Calendar: Share Your Events!

Keep our community connected! We're building a comprehensive calendar of events for Lake Tarawera and need your input. Send us details of any upcoming gatherings, workshops, or special occasions. Include the event's date, name, location, and time. Submissions can be emailed to [victoriajantke@gmail.com](mailto:victoriajantke@gmail.com) or via the [LTRA website Community Calendar](#), just use the online form to have your listing on the website and in Kotahi Reo - One Voice.

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Join us each week for:

**Tai Chi:** Mondays and Thursdays, 10:00-11:00 AM  
All levels welcome.

**Friday Drinks:** From 5:00 PM

### SPECIAL EVENTS

Keep up to date with upcoming happenings via the [Lake Tarawera Community Connect](#) and [Lake Tarawera Social Club Facebook](#) pages:

### FOR YOUNG FAMILIES

Originally a play centre, the hall remains a great place for young families to connect. If you're new to the area or looking to meet other parents, join the [Lake Kids Facebook Group](#)

# CLOSING REMARKS

## It's a Wrap!

Make sure you read the article on your options for paying for the sewage scheme, well crafted by Duncan, very carefully. It is essential that if you want to take advantage of the early repayment option you have a very tight timeframe and you must follow the steps carefully.

I again want to thank and acknowledge the work of the Working Group - without them the result would have been very different. They didn't have to do it but they did so we all could benefit.

Big shout out to Erin - only a year on the LTRA but she packed in many years of goodness into that time - we miss her.

Congrats and thank you to George Gilmore and Mitch Collins for running and successfully being elected to the Rotorua Lakes Community Board. We are very lucky to have people like George and Mitch who selflessly put themselves forward for the community.

Please support our sponsors - they all love this place as we do - they deserve our backing.

And finally - if you have any stories, anecdotes, old photos, suggestions for legends to be interviewed, or just want to express your opinion or offer to help then we would love to hear from you

Steele

**David Steele**  
*LTRA Committee Member*



## Join Our Community Database

If you're not yet in our database and would like to be, email [ltra@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ltra@xtra.co.nz) and tell us you want to be added to the database to receive this quarterly newsletter!