

# Kotahi Reo

## One Voice



**Whiria te Tāngata** Weaving the People Together

Winter 2025



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PHOTO: Meg Lipscombe

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## 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.



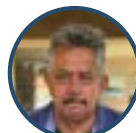
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# A minute with Steelo...

As a result of Chairman Mike's (not to be confused with Chairman Mao) delegation prowess I get to write this winter edition's editorial for Kotahi Reo – One Voice.

This is a great result for Mike but possibly not so good for you as the reader!

I am currently reading an excellent book called "Mindstuck – Mastering the Art of Changing Minds" by Michael McQueen – add it to your summer reading list.

Because I am only a third of the way through, I haven't got to the part of how to change people's minds – only the part of why it is so difficult to do so.

One thing I have learned is it is harder to change an intelligent mind and because most Tarawera residents are highly intelligent (why else would you choose the best lake in NZ to live/holiday?) there is no way I will succeed here..... but what I will try and do is influence you on the current LTRA thinking and what drives us as a committee.

Early in our stewardship we all got together and had a planning session, and we all decided the reason for our existence was threefold – Community Unity, Advocacy and Partnership all wrapped around "One" – you can find more detail on our vision and plan on the revamped LTRA website as well as the previous newsletter.

One of the many changes because of this is the new name for the newsletter "Kotahi Reo – One Voice" as we wanted to communicate to everyone as one voice.

At the same time we invited (and welcomed) feedback and while an overwhelming majority enjoyed the changes we made not everyone appreciated the change or for that matter some of the content. I am not going to try and use any Mindstuck ideas to try and change those that are not happy with the changes but we believe it is the right thing for us as a committee and a community and hopefully more of you will become convinced over the ensuing months.

But actions speak louder than words and when it comes to community unity it was heartwarming to have so many of you put their trust in the Lake Tarawera Working Group, a

wonderful and diverse group of residents, that worked so closely with the LTRA in successfully convincing the powers that be that a capped capital rate for Lake Tarawera residents was the only fair and reasonable result. I was lucky enough to be part of the Working Group mahi for the last few months and we all owe a huge debt of gratitude for how they worked tirelessly, often against the odds, resulting in a great win for the community. But it wouldn't have happened without so many of you trusting the Working Group and not signing the Locality Plans – great to see such Comm.....Unity.

In the words of David Foster Wallace, "Nothing brings you together like a common enemy"

Wouldn't it be great to see this show of unity being the springboard for Lake Tarawera residents working as One and replacing any negativity with pure positivity.

Don't get me wrong, we need to listen to alternative views and be challenged which is why I embrace diversity – we need to be listening to people from all walks of life and tolerating all cultures – what saddens and disturbs me is where diversity becomes divisive and as a small community if we can stamp out divisiveness maybe other communities will follow suit.

On reading what I have written it has become a little negative which for someone who always likes to be a glass half full is just not me so let's refocus on positivity.

I want to give a shout out to the previous LTRA committee – without them we would not have such fantastic protection of our Lake Tarawera environment through Landcare and Pest control – a huge thank you for all their previous and ongoing work.

In this issue we have dedicated two pieces to the Lake Tarawera Sailing Trust – one is the annual summary of the season, and the other is a recognition of its great work since Pat and Ian Thorpe set it up in 1999. I wanted to profile Pat but she wouldn't have a bar of it, so we agreed to do a little plug for the Sailing Trust instead. Pat is one of the most positive legends of Lake Tarawera and she has gathered so many wonderful people to assist her. I know it is always risky singling out one from the

crowd of great sailing supporters but Claire Stewart is one who deserves it – A full time working mum, this years champion adult sailor, secretary of our community centre, a member of the Sewage Working Group and to top it all off finds time to organise and play in the Tarawera vs Okareka netball match which is also profiled in this issue! I mention all this because Claire and Pat are not only incredibly modest but also proof that givers are far happier and better people than takers.

So that is my segue into my key theme – if you want to be happy then give a little or a lot – whether it is the Community Centre, the environment, the Spring Fair, the Sailing Trust or just helping out your neighbour then give it.

And if you just want to focus your giving on giving me a hard time for writing this editorial then do that as well – because at least you are still giving and while you are picking on me at least someone else is having a rest from your picking.

My final word is from the book I referred to at the beginning, “Mindstuck”, and is from Wharton School psychologist Adam Grant – “The brighter you are, the harder it can be to see your own limitations. Being good at thinking can make you worse at rethinking”.

So embrace change, love a lot and keep Taradise a secret – after all we don’t want too many realising how lucky we are.

Dave Steele  
LTRA Committee



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

# JOIN US AT THE Lake Tarawera Spring Fair!

Sunday 26 October 2025 at Stoney Point



Get ready for a wonderful day out at the **Lake Tarawera Spring Fair!** We're excited to invite you to join us on **Sunday, October 26th, 2025, commencing 10:00 am.** You'll find us at **Stoney Point, Spencer Road, Lake Tarawera.**

It's the perfect opportunity to get a head start on your **Christmas shopping!** We'll have a fantastic array of stalls featuring:

- Beautiful arts and crafts
- Unique jewellery and cards
- Handmade pottery and wood-turned items
- Plants
- Fun target golf
- Local real estate information
- Fun kids' stalls
- And a wide selection of other delightful Christmas gifts!

## **Delicious Food & Treats Await!**

Come hungry and enjoy tempting selection of food stalls. You'll find everything from delicious baking and preserves to savoury treats from **Redwood Butchery**, a classic **sausage sizzle**, mouth-watering **crepes**, and a much-needed **coffee truck**, plus so much more!

## **Exciting Variety Auction**

Don't miss our lively **Variety Auction, starting at 1:30pm!** There will be some fantastic items up for grabs.

## **A Note for Our Boating Friends**

If you're planning to come by boat, please note that we kindly ask boaties to use the **alternative parking areas** at Boatshed Bay and Bayview Road on both Saturday and Sunday.

## **Supporting Our Community**

Every dollar raised by the Lake Tarawera Spring Fair Committee will be **donated directly to local community organisations**, so your participation helps make a real difference!

## **We'd Love Your Help!**

This event is made possible by our amazing community, and we're looking for **friendly volunteers** to lend a hand on the day. If you're able to help out, please send an email to **laketarawerafair@gmail.com** – we'd be so grateful for your support!

**We're looking forward to seeing you! Just a quick reminder that it's cash only Fair.**



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

## Harbourmaster Team Update – July 2025:

**It's been a mixed bag of winter weather lately with winter storms contrasting with some unseasonably beautiful calm days to entice keen lake users out onto the water.**

Winter brings unique risks for those out on the water. Influencing conditions like wind speed, water and air temperature, and wave height often differ from summer. If you end up in the water during winter, your chances of survival drop sharply. The water is colder, the days are shorter, and fewer people are around to help if something goes wrong.

While people who are out in winter are likely more experienced, but they shouldn't underestimate these seasonal variations by taking the 'she'll be right' attitude. Being able to 'read the water, trust your gut and beat the odds' may not be enough when winter conditions are added to the mix and safety rules are ignored.

Nationally in winter 2024, we saw the highest number of boating deaths ever recorded during the winter months – 11 in total.







PHOTO: Repainting faded ski lane poles



PHOTO: Laying up reflective tape on new 5 knot buoys

### HARBOURMASTER WINTER MAHI

As part of our annual maintenance our team conducts audits on all lake navigation aids and signage. It's important that all these features are doing their job and keeping everyone safe on the Lakes.

Storms year round can damage or move our navigation aids (like 5 knot buoys). If you do see something that looks out of place, please report it to 0800 5KNOTS or email [harbourmasters@boprc.govt.nz](mailto:harbourmasters@boprc.govt.nz) We'll attempt to fix any of these issues as fast as we can.

Heavy rainfall and wind can introduce navigational hazards such as logs, debris and broken structures to our navigable waters. Again, the best place to report such things is to 0800 5 KNOTS.

As always please take care and follow the safe boating rules. With fewer people likely to be out it's important your craft is in good shape, everyone is wearing a lifejacket and you have two forms of communication. Watch the weather and if in doubt don't go out!



PHOTO: Maritime Officer Dan Bramley removing a sunken 5 knot buoy that was recovered from the lakebed in 28m of water

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





# Don't let *your next trip* be your last!



## Five or fine

Stick to the five knot rule and reduce your speed when within:

- 50m of people and boats
- 200m of the shore or a diving flag

## Lifejackets save lives

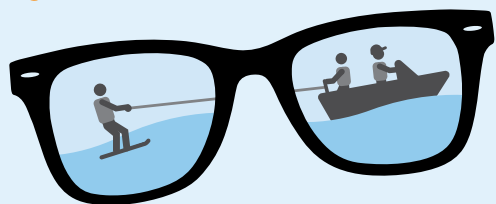
Many people can only tread water for 10 minutes.  
The average response time is much longer.  
Always wear a lifejacket.



## If you can't be heard, you can't be helped.

Always carry two forms of waterproof communication that work where you're boating.

## It takes three to ski



- You must have an observer on board who is aged 10 or over
- Travel in an anti-clockwise direction
- Always look ahead
- Consider the effect your wake has on other boats, people and structures



PHOTO: Geoff Thomas  
The adult three-year-old trout are up the streams spawning through the winter

## Winter '25: Cast Your Line

**All of the tributary streams, and the Tarawera River at the Outlet, will be holding a lot of spawning trout through the winter; and with wild fish now making up about 50 per cent of the population their baby fingerlings that join the population will be more important than ever.**

You can tell when you catch a wild, or naturally spawned fish as they will have all their fins intact. Some believe they are stronger and fight better than their cousins from the hatchery, who have led a sheltered, protected life in their first year.

That first year is the most perilous for baby trout, and few survive to adulthood. In fact a mature hen fish will have about 3,000 eggs, or ova, per kilo of body weight but out of every thousand eggs laid only two or three will return three years later as adults to repeat the cycle.

It is a good example of Darwin's theory of survival of the fittest, which is Nature's way of ensuring a species endures and the survival genes are passed on down the generations. So

it makes sense that the naturally recruited fish are stronger.

The lake is in excellent condition for trout growth (In spite of all the untreated sewage the council says is being discharged), as illustrated at the start of the season when the bulk of the catch are two-year-old fish. Last year (1-10-24) the trout were much larger on average than in previous years. The hatchery fish liberated in autumn of 2023 were 32mm longer and 514g (that is half a kilo!) heavier than comparable catches the previous year; and the liberations from spring, 2023, were 17mm longer and 340g heavier on average than a year prior.



## OPENING DAY

We are all looking forward to the opening of the new season on October 1, a tradition when old friends gather to share experiences.

Most people will be trolling – either shallow trolling or harling, and deep trolling. Shallow fishing is best at dawn and dusk when the trout are more active, following the edge of weed beds or shelves like those at White Cliffs, Stoney Point and Kariri Point and under the mountain.

Lines can be old sinking fly lines or a popular harling outfit made up of one colour of lead-core line spliced to backing or monofilament line.

Trolling is simply using a lure like a cobra or toby on the end rather than a fly (harling), and rods can be anything from a spin rod to a fly rod. The basic rig comprises a monofilament trace of around 4.5kg breaking strain monofilament, and some successful anglers like to use six metres. This is attached either to a loop on the main line, or to a swivel small enough to go through the rod guides (size 14). At the business end you can have a single lure or fly, or two flies, or a fly and lure combo. The two-lure rig has a fly sitting above a swivel about a metre above the lure, or second fly when harling.

When using two flies different types can be used, like a smelt pattern and a bully. Popular patterns include Grey Ghost, Jack Spratt, Parsons Glory, Red Setter, Olive Marabou and Mrs Simpson. As in all fishing many anglers have their own favourites, and having confidence in your tackle and lure is a big part of successful angling.

Deep trolling is the most productive method, and involves lead-core or wire lines – usually 100 metres although wire is sometimes longer. Lead lines go down about 14 metres with 100 metres of line out, and all the line should be in the water including some backing. Wire goes deeper, up to 20 metres with 150 of line out, but it is heavy and cumbersome to use; and wire tends to spring off the spool and to also kink, which creates tangles and weak points. So care is needed when letting line out – a thumb on the spool prevents over-runs – and with both types of line once the main line is in the water the boat speed can be increased to speed up the process. Just make sure the boat is heading in a straight line. Some people like to splice a 10-metre colour of lead line on the business end of their wire, which keeps the wire further away from the terminal bits. A mono trace up to 10

metres with a single lure completes the outfit.

Popular lures are black toby, and Tassy Devils or Cobras in yellow-white (Skeleton), green and yellow or traffic light. The hooks used are critical, and I always discard the brown hooks which come with these lures, replacing them with Mustad, red hooks with a red tag. Hamills Sports has a good stock of these hooks, and you can get them ready-rigged with a swivel, split ring and tag which is fine for cobras and Tassy Devils. Just ask for the hooks which GT uses!



PHOTO: The cobra is rigged with a bead in front, a red Mustad hook with a red tag. The fly is an optional dropper, and can be a nuisance as it gets tangled in the net when boating a fish



Written by Geoff Thomas  
*The Outdoors Adventurer*



## 547 Spencer Road, Lake Tarawera

This property was launched with a **five-week Tender** campaign that attracted strong market interest. The listing received **14,180 views** on Trade Me and **11,637 views** on Realestate.co.nz. During the campaign, Stuff.co.nz wrote a **feature editorial** article on the property, further boosting exposure and enquiry. The campaign concluded with **multiple offers** submitted by the Tender deadline.

...Brooke understood that our buyer needed to see themselves in the home, and be motivated enough to travel to view it in person. She didn't just wait for interest; she created it. Her sharp positioning and proactive marketing drove strong open home attendance, multiple serious viewings, and several offers....


**Sold**

## 15 Alexander Road, Lake Tarawera

Sold for nearly **\$4 million** — an outstanding result at **\$1.9 million above CV** — following a **five-week Tender** campaign that attracted strong interest and resulted in **multiple offers** submitted by the closing date.

...Always willing and able to take on a new task with enthusiasm. We all found her to be reliable, available whenever we needed her and above all honest. Brooke worked hard for us and within the short marketing period of our house being on the market, it had sold. From the excellent marketing video presentation to practical advice on preparing the house for sale and presentation to purchasers...


**Sold**

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PHOTO: Rotorua Lakes Council

# Message from Her Worship the Mayor, Tania Tapsell

Greetings Greetings Lake Tarawera residents!  
Tēnā koutou te hapori ō te roto ō Tarawera

They say good things take time, but I want to start by apologising for the tumultuous journey we've all been on. The good news from it all is that Rotorua Lakes Council has reduced the final cost for the majority of Tarawera ratepayers to \$36,600 (incl GST).

We send a heartfelt thank you to the many residents who provided their feedback to us. The Lake Tarawera community was clear about the concerning cost, and we are delighted to have found a solution to support the reduction in the costs that you asked for.

## IMPORTANT INFO

This decision does assume that all properties

will be connected to the Scheme by the Council and we hope all property owners will cooperatively join.

We've also extended the date for you to confirm if you'd prefer to opt out of Stage 2 – if so you'll need to let council know in writing by 31 July 2025. You'd then be required to connect at your own cost at a later date. Please note you will still be required to pay \$17,701 (incl GST) for Stage 1.

## HOW COUNCIL HAS ADDED ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

During initial deliberations, our Council allocated an additional \$1.1m to the Scheme, reducing the cost per-property to around \$46,700 (incl GST). However, following this decision, as we said we would, we continued working hard behind the scenes to secure more external funding to

further reduce this cost to property owners. We were successful and received commitment from the Bay of Plenty Regional Council to provide an additional \$1m grant to the Scheme, as well as another \$1m grant from the Ministry for the Environment. Rotorua Lakes Council also increased our contribution to \$2.685m for the Scheme which will be recovered through the Lakes Enhancement Rate, paid by all Rotorua district ratepayers over the next 25 years.

Council had also already increased all Rotorua ratepayers' contribution from \$1,400 to \$2,700 per property, and we've redirected \$2m of Government Better Off Funding, previously allocated to the public Rotorua Aquatic Centre, to the Sewerage Scheme to help reduce your cost.

Protests at Lake Rotokākahi caused \$2.6m of additional costs for the Scheme. We've removed these costs from the project so Tarawera

ratepayers aren't expected to cover this. These costs will be paid for through Council's sewerage budget and the Lakes Enhancement Rate.

Ratepayers who are still concerned about being able to cover the final costs are encouraged to contact council to discuss options available to them, such as rates postponement.

Kindest regards,  
Tania Tapsell  
Her Worship the Mayor of Rotorua

Written by Tania Tapsell  
Her Worship the Mayor of Rotorua



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*Always cheerful, it was a total pleasure to have Pete's team on site. We would unreservedly recommend them to anyone planning a project where you really care about the quality of workmanship and value excellent collaboration with trades."*

*-Liz and Paul Weatherly*

*"Wanting a perfect finish on our painted surfaces, we engaged Peter Bangs from Paint & Paper to do the job. The job was done over a couple of days and the team arrived when they said they would and got the job done. They were very professional and we would highly recommend them for all jobs, big or small".*

*-Mati & Chris*



# ENROL STAND VOTE



**ROTORUA  
LAKES COUNCIL**  
Te Kaunihera o ngā Roto o Rotorua

[RLC.NET.NZ/VOTE](https://rlc.net.nz/vote)





PHOTO: Meg Lipscombe

# Sewerage Working Group Update

**There is nothing quite like the relief of seeing a plan come together.**

If the plan is good enough you know it's probably going to happen as expected, but there's always that tiny niggle in the back of your mind muttering "but what if..." over and over as you wait.

The final Rotorua Lakes Council vote on the Tarawera Sewerage Scheme on June 27 was like that. The LTRA and the Working Group were very confident enough councillors would vote on the \$36,600 capped cost to see it across the line, but we'd had a few setbacks in the past that helped keep that little seed of doubt alive.

We needn't have worried; as it turned out elected local, regional and central government politicians were on our side all along – they just needed a bit of prodding to make a deal happen.

Needless to say we are very grateful to have finally reached this point.

The Working Group was formed about 18

months ago amid mounting concern about the spiralling costs of the scheme and deep division and discontent within the community.

It was an amalgam of various skills and experience – we had the strategists, the networkers, the numbers people, the details people, the people with deep connections in the community, the communicators and the passionate table thumpers, all pushing in the same direction.

It turned out to be the perfect mix. But it wouldn't have succeeded without the Tarawera community.

When we asked you to come to community meetings, you came. When we asked you to attend council meetings if you could, you turned out in big numbers. When we asked you to make submissions to the Annual Plan, you not only made them, but you spoke with reason and passion.



And when we asked you not to sign your locality plan while we tried to negotiate with council – and to hold the line as the deadline passed – you did.

We couldn't have asked for more – the result that was achieved was because the unity you showed allowed us to push the levers we needed to push. We are deeply humbled by your support.

As we said recently, we're not going anywhere anytime soon. We've set up a steering group (thanks Duncan Evans and Chris Hanson) which is committed to scrutinising the fine print on the scheme, and supporting people in their dealings with council.

Meanwhile, the Working Group will continue to meet and keep you updated on any developments.

Our thanks to you all. It is a privilege to be part of this community. Flushing the loo will never quite be the same again.

To contact us:

Email: [workinggroup@taraweralake.nz](mailto:workinggroup@taraweralake.nz)

Duncan Evans – ph 021 223 8644

Susan Pepperell – ph 021 233 1078

Written by Lake Tarawera Sewage  
Working Group  
(chaired by Henry van der Heyden)



PHOTO: Meg Lipscombe

## Pest Control – July 2025

The Ratmeister is back with his latest pest control update, and he's not holding back on the realities of dealing with rats, offering insights into effective baiting strategies, observations on possum populations, and a candid look at the stellar 2025 wasp season.

### RATS

Rats rats rats, they are not going away and to all those of you that say you haven't got rats at your place you are dreaming. I completed my bi annual rat population count. There is a continuation of the previous data showing where there is baiting being undertaken the rodent population is at much lower levels than where there is no baiting. These findings have remained consistent for my 4 surveys.

The problems with this are:

1. We have a limit to the amount of people baiting, it isn't a sexy job but someone needs to do it if you want to reduce the rodent population.
2. We also have a limited amount of bait so if suddenly there was a 100% uptake in people baiting we wouldn't have enough bait.

My trial with '**Pulse Baiting**' (this is where we limit the baiting to the two most important times of the year being Autumn /Early Winter and Late Winter /Spring).

This has resulted in a reduction both in the time taken to refresh bait stations and the amount of bait used with no apparent change in the effect compared to year round baiting.

Interesting I have seen lately a number of dead rats, would have seen at least 5 of them either dead or near death. This is unusual, upon inspecting their stomach contents they all have telltale green bait remnants. Also there are usually remnants of chewed plastic, PVC pipe and what looks like plastic wire coating. Winter caught rats have a fairly spartan diet compared with summer but that is another story.



### POSSUMS

I have to admit my capture rate is down and the indicator traps are not showing the usual population density. Maybe it is just my area.

I would be interested to know if people are finding the same thing, apart from a few sunning possums they are relatively easy to catch when you know they are around.

### WASPS

As predicted 2025 was a stellar year for wasps, I usually deal to 20 nests a season but in 2025 I deal to 37 and some of them multiple times because they were so knarly. Plus there were two stand out nests where the wasps were particularly evil, even with a veil and suit they got through to sting me. Damon wins the evilest nest award where I got stung 4 times!

I suspect with climate change this is the new wasp world where benign winters mean more queens survive which leads to more summer wasp nests.

Written by Ratmeister



# Help Shape Wasp Control Efforts

The Moths and Butterflies of NZ Trust is running survey to understand public awareness and attitudes toward introduced pest wasps.

Unlike our native, solitary wasps, the five introduced "social" wasps (the ones that build large paper nests) are significant pests threatening native ecosystems.

The Trust is gathering feedback to help shape future strategies for wasp control and public education. The survey asks about your ability to identify these wasps, your awareness of their impact, and your thoughts on current control measures.

You can learn more and take the survey online here: <https://www.nzbutterflies.org.nz/project/pest-wasps-survey/>



PHOTO: Liz Cooper  
Tarawera Sailing is thriving

## Lake Tarawera Sailing

**It was another highly successful season for our learn-to-sail programme at Tarawera Sailing with many new beginner sailors and their families.**

We provide beginner instruction so that our sailors can quickly participate in short course races beginning with a sprint off the beach. There is on the water coaching during races. Everyone gets involved in either the racing or managing the sail boats as they leave and return to shore. Great family fun!

### REGATTA DAY

The season culminated in Regatta Day on 13 April, again superbly organised by Carol Gilchrist and Pat Thorpe.

Sailor numbers for both young and adult sailors have increased over the last few years. Their newly acquired skills in boat rigging with the correct knots, boat handling, mark rounding and racing were on display during the Regatta. This was wonderful to see.

Regatta Day was established by Pat and Ian Thorpe in the early days of the club and this highly successful format has been retained. There was lots of fun racing including the Pirate race and the Lottery race followed by the Championship races for juniors, intermediates and adults. All races were enthusiastically contested, and the day was highly entertaining with lots of fun being had by competitors and spectators alike.

Many thanks to the LTRA who generously put on a great sausage sizzle which was enjoyed by all at the regatta. There was also homemade lemonade and scones; always a favourite with our young sailors.

A formal prize giving followed the day's sailing and trophies were presented by Ray Gatland who leads the coaching and maintains our fleet.



Congratulations to all the recipients and to all the competitors who helped make it such a great Regatta Day.

Trophies and prizes presented to the sailors are as follows:

### CHAMPIONSHIP RACES

JUNIOR (Firebugs):

1st Robbie Kenny

2nd Vanya Troshin

INTERMEDIATE (Microns):

1st Spencer Stewart

2nd Elsie Papps

ADULT: 1st Claire Stewart

### SEASON'S TOP SAILORS

JUNIOR: Stas Selnitskiy

INTERMEDIATE: Emma Kenny

SENIOR: Jack Schulte

### SEASON'S MOST IMPROVED SAILORS

JUNIOR: Arthur Verba

INTERMEDIATE: Emily Packham

SENIOR: Kristina Troshina

ADULT: Leeza Graevskaya

### SEASON'S RACING AWARD

Frida Hamilton

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 Patrice Gatland



PHOTO: Liz Cooper  
Adult Regatta Champion Claire Stewart



PHOTO: Liz Cooper  
Merit Award Junior Sailor - Daniel Schulte



PHOTO: Liz Cooper  
Competitive junior racing!



PHOTO: Liz Cooper  
Micron Championship final - Spencer Stewart out in front









PHOTO: Liz Cooper  
Knots with Pat Thorpe



PHOTO: Liz Cooper  
Light winds on Regatta Day

## A **WINNING** COMBINATION

Jenny Donne and Bayleys are a winning combination at Lake Tarawera.

Working here with buyers and sellers is my passion and with over 14 years of experience, it has become my speciality.

**Contact me for a comprehensive, confidential market appraisal.**

**BAYLEYS**



**Jenny Donne | Rotorua Lakes Specialist**  
P 027 385 0566 E [jenny.donne@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:jenny.donne@bayleys.co.nz)

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www.theblackbarn.co.nz  
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027 631 1970

Image by Grace Jones Photography





PHOTO: Liz Cooper

# Lake Tarawera Sailing Trust

**The Lake Tarawera Sailing Trust is the brainchild of Ian and Pat Thorpe who started it in 1999 at the end of Te Karamea Bay where it has grown and flourished.**

The ethos the Thorpes founded the Trust on was (and still is) "to have fun safely".

My memory of the Thorpes sailing prowess dates well before the Sailing Trust started when they brought their Hobie 16 "Old Gold" from Fiji.

Old Gold had been in the World regatta in Suva in 1976 and despite all sorts of handicaps (I remember racing our maricat with a 6km start and still getting beaten) Old Gold was unbeatable.

The King of the Lake – always sailed from Te Karamea bay with a le mans start on the 3rd of January – started in the 1980's and the trophy is the "Old Gold Trophy".

Old Gold is now retired but the legend lives on and will always be part of sailing history on Lake Tarawera.

The Sailing Trust is a special unique part of Lake Tarawera as of course are Ian and Pat Thorpe. The Trust is a real family affair and locals and visitors are always welcome.

Pat, who has spent a lifetime teaching art, designed the unique logo for the Lake Tarawera Sailing Trust and while they always welcome donations just remember the members will be fundraising at the Spring Fair and you can always buy a tee shirt!

There are so many people and families who do so much to make the Sailing Trust a success and give so many youngsters (and oldies) the opportunity to have fun safely on the lake.

There is a lot more that could be said but this poem by Claire Stewart really says it all.....

**Dave Steele**  
LTRA Committee







POEM BY: Claire Stewart

Back in '99, a plan was hatched,  
Ian and Pat, with a scheme unmatched,  
A sailing club for Tarawera, ideas  
immediately dispatched,  
A club for youth to 90 (you'll need to change  
that Pat!), no strings attached.  
"Let it be free," they declared with might,  
A trust was born, donations, fundraising  
plus a dose foresight.  
Now the club's a beacon, shining bright,  
With Ray at the helm, teaching by day, fixing  
the boats by night.  
Carol on shore,  
Rigging the sails, under her guide everyone  
advances  
Patrice, with her list, gives reassuring  
glances,  
Her scones a hit, when they appear a  
session enhances,  
Dave's in the water, where capsizing's a thrill,  
"Learn by immersion," he says, "That's the  
skill."  
But Pat, dear Pat, with patience as she sits  
on the hill,  
Teaching knots, making time stand still.  
Her lemonade, legend by the cup,  
Magically refreshing, the elixir to keep your  
skills up.  
Not just the Teachers, but the whole group,  
Erin, Jeff, Jacqui, a fabulous troop.  
Richard, Rhonda, Simon, Aga and Gert, Jim  
and Lisa, Carl and Julie,  
This year's been one for the books, truly,  
The Lake Tarawera Sailing Trust, kids and  
adults sailing smoothly.  
So here's to the laughs, the skills, the vang,  
the light winds,  
To the club that begun with the vision of  
one.  
For the joy, the fun, the heroes unsung,  
Extra special thanks to Pat, her family and  
presence, never outdone.





PHOTO: Iris Arihi Harvey

## He Rā Maumahara – A Day to Remember

This is Te Rangipuawhe, who once stood at the Tarawera Lookout above Punaromia. The Pou Maumahara was erected in 2006 by Tūhourangi to commemorate 120 years since the Tarawera eruption. Sadly, the pou was severely damaged beyond repair this year.

It was therefore fitting that it be laid to rest on 10th June — a time that also marked the 139th anniversary of the Tarawera eruption.

The day comprised three important kaupapa for the iwi.

Tūhourangi, Ngāti Rangitihi, and Tarawera residents gathered for a commemorative karakia at the Ohomairangi Pou in the Tarawera Trail car park.



This was followed by the burial of the Pou Maumahara at the memorial site opposite Te Wairoa (The Buried Village).

We concluded the morning by celebrating our whanaunga, Dr Nari Faiers, and her doctoral thesis at the Buried Village.

A huge mihi to all who attended, to the Buried Village whānau for hosting and to Chris Hanson for uplifting the pou to its place of storage and placing Te Rangipuwāhe in his final resting place.



The day was a powerful expression of remembrance, unity, and pride — honouring our past, acknowledging our present, and celebrating our future. Kia whakatōmuri te haere whakamua.



Written by Iris Arihi Harvey  
Tūhourangi, Ngāti Whakaue, Ngāpuhi  
LTRA



# Stay Secure This Winter

**As winter blankets our neighborhood in cold weather and early darkness, Lake Security is here to ensure that your home and family remain safe, secure, and stress-free. This season brings unique challenges, but with a few smart precautions, you can enjoy a peaceful and well-protected winter.**

## SEASONAL SECURITY TIPS

### 1. Light It Up

Shorter days mean longer nights. Ensure your outdoor lighting is in working order—especially around entry points, driveways, and walkways. Motion-activated lights deter unwanted visitors and make it easier for you to see.

### 2. Lock Before You Leave

Whether heading out for the holidays or just a weekend trip, double-check that all doors and windows are locked. Feel free to let us know if you are going to be leaving for any period of time.

### 3. Keep an eye out

With far less traffic and people in residence through the winter months vehicles and people that are in our neighbourhood looking to get up to no good are easier to spot. If you see anything suspicious at all, take a photo, make a note and feel free to get in touch

## WINTER PATROL UPDATES

The quiet days lead to increased patrols in the evenings, thoroughly checking throughout the community and patrolling into the early hours of the morning. We're also equipped to handle:

Weather induced obstruction checks around the roads, properties and lake access points

Emergency response coordination with local authorities during storms

As always, don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns

Written by George Gilmour  
Lakes Security  
027 282 9034 07 3628 378

George.gilmour@fireandemergency.nz





## Back of the Bus: Meet Spencer Thomas Stewart (Named after the Road!) –

**HOBBIES:** Sailing, soccer, fishing and mountain biking.

### **HOW AM I CONNECTED TO LAKE TARAWERA?:**

Well, my Great, Great Grandad, Harold Thomas, came here over 100 years ago and bought land in Waitangi Bay. I've been here since I was 3 when my Mum and Dad brought my Grandparents' house (Clare and Don Stewart)—it's where we live now!

### **MY FAVOURITE THING ABOUT LIVING HERE:**

I get to be close to my family. My grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and even my great aunts and uncles live pretty much next door! Plus, living by the lake and bush is awesome, and I love being part of the Lake Tarawera Sailing Club.

### **SOMETHING FUNNY YOU'VE SEEN AT**

**TARAWERA:** Every year there are Christmas Carols at the Community Hall, and when I was little, I totally believed it was the real Santa showing up. Then I thought, okay, maybe it's one of Santa's helpers. But then one day, I figured out it's actually Dave Townsend! Now it's so obvious. He thinks we don't know, but I know your secret Dave!

**IF TARAWERA COULD HAVE ONE EXTRA THING WHAT WOULD IT BE?:** A basketball/ tennis court

**WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?:** A builder or landscaper



# LAKE TARAWERA COMMUNITY CENTRE FUNDRAISER

Join us for an evening of film,  
food & fundraising!

**Lake Tarawera Community Centre | Saturday 13 September 2025**

**Doors open 6:00pm | Film starts 7:30pm**

Enjoy a screening of the classic Aussie comedy 'The Castle', indulge in delicious catering from The Landing Café, and take part in a lively Live Auction – all in support of the Lake Tarawera Community Centre.

**Your ticket includes dinner and the movie, so grab your friends and help us make a difference!**

**TICKETS:** \$30 per person  
Contact Jenny for ticket sales

**Jenny Donne | 027 385 0566**  
[jenny.donne@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:jenny.donne@bayleys.co.nz)

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# COMMUNITY

## What's On at the Lake Tarawera Community Hall

The Lake Tarawera Community Hall is our central hub for local events.

### 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:

### COMING SOON

Wild Winter Feast – August

We're currently planning a festive wild themed evening of feasting and festivities. Save the date Saturday August 23rd 2025. More details to follow — but it's never too early to prepare your furs and pheasants!

### 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](#)







PHOTO: Meg Lipscombe

# Lake Ōkāreka Takes the Trophy in Netball Showdown

A Thrilling Rematch Between Tarawera and Ōkāreka

Ōkāreka	Tarawera
12	11

Netball fans were treated to a spectacle in June 2025 as Lake Tarawera and Lake Ōkāreka faced off in a highly anticipated rematch. The tension was palpable, stemming from last year's fierce contest where Tarawera narrowly clinched victory. This time, however, Lake Ōkāreka emerged triumphant, snatching the trophy by just a few points.

With Ōkāreka determined to avenge their previous loss, they stormed onto the court full of energy and elbows. Tarawera did not back down, delivering their signature grit and teamwork, but ultimately came up short.

The success of this riveting grudge match has sparked plans for it to become a regular fixture on the netball calendar. The next showdown is already set for July 27th 3pm at the Lake Ōkāreka Tennis Courts.

For those keen to join Lake Tarawera's mixed team get in touch, we are particularly keen for shooters! Adults only, sorry kids! Despite the fierce words, it is a social team! Contact Claire Stewart or Renae Anderson.







## 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

# One Small Step

**Many moons passed, some maintenance was carried out on our jetty on the shore of Lake Tarawera. Extreme care was taken to ensure that the original footprint was exactly retained. However, an enterprising builder added a swim ladder to the end of the jetty. The following is a very abbreviated version of the subsequent events.**

In the latter part of 2020, I received a letter from the Bay of Plenty Regional Council raising concern about a swim ladder attached to the jetty. As it appears that the ladder was added after the date of the original consent for the jetty, it was therefore not covered by that consent. The letter stated (quite correctly): “it (the ladder) is outside the consented/approved footprint.”

At this point it is worth noting that the ladder extends some 110mm beyond the consented area, and is not attached to the lake bottom. Incidentally, the fenders added more recently, extend further beyond the consented area than the swim ladder, and have been included in the same consent application.

The letter then continued, that in order to now arrange consent for the ladder: “you will need to obtain approval from the various agencies:

- The Maritime Team at BoPRC (I quote: “from a Navigational Safety perspective”)
- DOC Department of Conservation
- F & G Fish & Game,
- LINZ Land information NZ
- TALT Te Arawa Lakes Trust”

So I dutifully set about contacting each of the agencies in turn. You can but imagine my relief when the Maritime Safety Team reported that, in their judgement, the ladder did not pose a navigational hazard for shipping on the lake. Further good news followed when DOC, F&G and LINZ, all granted their approval.

For TALT, it was necessary to complete an “Application for Residential Lake Structures on a Te Arawa Lake Bed.” Despite the ladder having no direct connection with the lake bed, an extensive application was completed. This covered details of the structure; a detailed plan showing legal boundaries; GPS coordinates of the structure; a consideration of cultural values and detailed drawings. An application fee of \$400 must be paid before the application is considered. Payment was duly made.

All of this took some time, but in July 2024 the

BoPRC reported that they had received the necessary approvals of the five agencies and were issuing the consent. So a happy ending was reached and I must stress that all my dealings with the agencies and the BoPRC were handled in a most professional manner.

There remained just one small detail – yes, you guessed – an invoice from the BoPRC for the staff time involved. For the two staff a total of 6 hours and 45 minutes was documented, and the cost: \$775.08, or \$114.83 per hour (equivalent to an annual salary of \$229,660)

So for a total outlay of  $\$400 + \$775.08 = \$1,175.08$  I now have a consented swim ladder. If I have 20 swims per year over the next 10 years and use the ladder each time, that will work out at \$5.88 per climb. Furthermore, the astute reader will recall that the unconsented extension was 110mm, implying a consenting cost of \$10.69 per millimetre. One can only be grateful it did not extend any further!

Conclusion: One small step for an elderly swimmer; one enormous leap for bureaucracy (with apologies to Neil Armstrong)



Written by Grant Scobie





# Our Revitalised LTRA Website is Here!

We're delighted to announce the launch of our revitalised Lake Tarawera community website! Our brand new online home is now live and waiting for you at [www.laketarawera.org.nz](http://www.laketarawera.org.nz). We believe this new website will be a wonderful resource for everyone.

Designed with you in mind, the new website is a warm and inviting space, brimming with information to connect and enrich our community.

Wondering what's on offer? You'll find a wealth of details about:

- **LOCAL EVENTS**

Discover upcoming gatherings, markets, working bees, and celebrations happening around Lake Tarawera through the Community Calendar.

Do you have an event coming up that you'd like to share with everyone? We encourage you to submit your event to our online calendar! Simply visit the website, navigate to the "Community Calendar" section, and you'll find an easy-to-use online form to

complete and submit your details. It's a fantastic way to ensure your event gets the exposure it deserves.

- **COMMUNITY GROUPS**

Connect with local clubs, associations, and volunteer opportunities. Find out how to get involved and make a difference. If you have a Community Group that you would like added to the website, then please get in touch.

- **LOCAL NEWS AND UPDATES**

Stay informed about important local issues, project updates, and community announcements.

- Past issues of Kotahi Reo – One Voice and The Phantom

- And so much more! We aim for this to be a dynamic and ever-evolving resource, reflecting the vibrant spirit of our community.

This revitalised website is a testament to our collective commitment to fostering a stronger, more connected Lake Tarawera. We invite you to explore, engage, and make it your go-to source for all things community. Let's make it a thriving hub for our wonderful lakeside life!

<https://www.laketarawera.org.nz/>



## GET INVOLVED

For our next newsletter, we want to put the spotlight on what makes our community truly special! We're inviting you to share the stories that capture its heart and soul. What makes our lake, land, and people unique? What brings this place to life for you? You don't need to be a professional writer; in fact, the more genuine and unpolished your contribution, the better!

If you have content that highlights the colour, character, and vibrancy of our area, we'd love to feature it. This could be anything from personal anecdotes, historical events or local event recaps to anything that speaks to the spirit of our community.

### Showcase your Photos

Do you have stunning, high-resolution photos of our area? We want to see them! A great picture can tell a story unlike anything else. If you've captured an image that embodies the spirit of our community, please send it our way so we can feature it in all its glory.

### 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.

### What's in it for you?

Apart from a newsletter packed with 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)

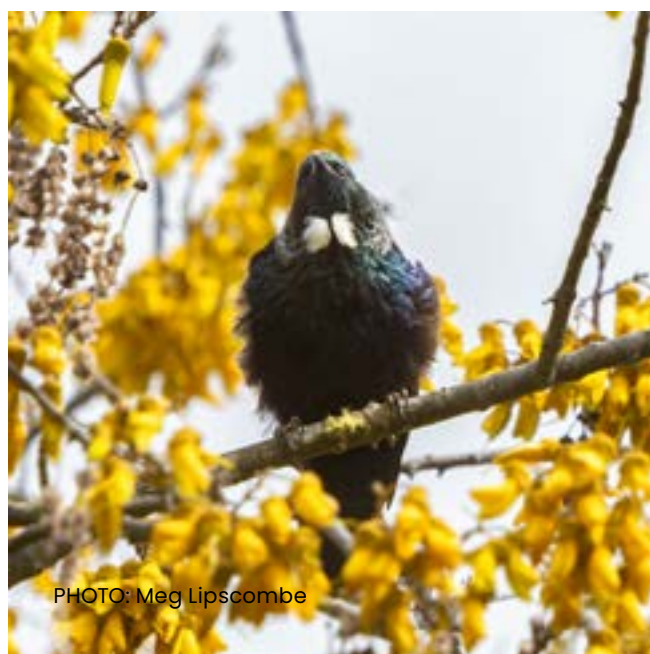


PHOTO: Meg Lipscombe

## FREE CLASSIFIED ADVERT LISTINGS

Connect with [Tori](#) for classified advertising opportunities.

Classified adverts are FREE for 3 lines of text, plus phone and email address.

While we appreciate all contributions, please note that due to space and editorial considerations, not all submissions may be printed.

**Tori Jantke**  
Email [victoriajantke@gmail.com](mailto:victoriajantke@gmail.com)



## 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 murrayedillner@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

## Join Our Community Database

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



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## JULY 2025

- 27** **Lake Ōkāreka vs Lake Tarawera Netball Game**  
*Lake Ōkāreka Tennis Courts, 3pm*

## AUGUST 2025

- 23** **Wild Winter Feast**  
*Tarawera Community Hall*

## SEPTEMBER 2025

- 13** **Lake Tarawera Community Hall Fundraiser**  
*Lake Tarawera Community Centre,  
Doors open 6:00pm | Film starts 7:30pm  
TICKETS: \$30 per person  
CONTACT: Jenny Donne | 027 385 0566  
jenny.donne@bayleys.co.nz*

## OCTOBER 2025

- 1** **Fishing season (OPENING)**
- 26** **Spring Fair (Labour Weekend)**  
*Stoney Point*

## JANUARY 2026

**LTRA AGM (DATE TBC)**

- 2** **Jetty to Jetty Swim**  
*Time & Location TBC*

## JUNE 2026

- 10** **150 Year Anniversary Mt Tarawera Eruption**

### 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.

# CLOSING REMARKS

## It's a Wrap!

A huge thank you to everyone for your support and feedback on the first edition of the newsletter. It's encouraging to hear it's hitting the mark, and your constructive suggestions on how to make it even more relevant and useful for our community are greatly appreciated.

As always, if you, or a group you're involved with, would like to contribute an article, please get in touch. Kotahi Reo is your platform to share stories and updates, provided they stay positive, objective, and respectful of differing views.

We'd be remiss not to once again acknowledge the tireless mahi of the Tarawera Sewage Working Group. Your dedication, effort, and determination delivered a result many thought was no longer possible, and did so with firm professionalism, resulting in a more balanced, win-win outcome for all involved. Thank you for helping to bring much-needed closure to this saga, and providing the clarity and certainty we all need as we plan ahead.

A special mention also goes to Tori, who has led the charge on refreshing both the newsletter and the website. If you haven't had a look yet, the updated site builds on the great work of past committees while adding features that make it easier to follow events, sign up to support the LTRA, and manage your newsletter preferences. We hope it will become your one-stop source for community news.

Lastly, a big thanks to Geoff for sharing his fishing know-how, and to Meg for her stunning photography, your contributions truly bring Kotahi Reo to life.

Enjoy the winter months ahead, and we look forward to reconnecting with you in spring.