

Kotahi Reo

One Voice



Whiria te Tāngata Weaving the People Together

Spring 2025



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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.



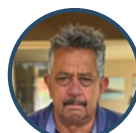
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A minute with Dave

Welcome to our third edition of the newly named Kotahi Reo – One Voice. It appears the art of delegation is still alive and well and Chairman Mike and Steelo have passed the baton to me for the Spring Edition editorial for Kotahi Reo.

It is my first tenure as a committee member for the rate payers association. I have been surprised and delighted with the depth of the community interaction with LTRA from the Lake Tarawera Working Group to the Sailing Club, to the Volunteer Fire Service, to the Community Center and a host of other residents who happily give up their time to assist the committee in their governance role.

My association with Tarawera stems back to 1969 when my parents purchased a holiday home on Spencer Road, that was the times where the roads were all pumice, Nat Playne had just opened up the non-lake edge Tarawera sections. I have very fond memories in my first parentless trips to Tarawera of using those Real Estate signs (which were then ply-wood with wooden stakes) as a very good supply of mid-winter firewood when the wood stack ran low.

Back in those days you could recite almost every resident from the start to the end of the road. Growing up at Tarawera was one of the most formative and adventure fueled times in my life, I have continued to maintain some life-long friendships from that time.

It is very heartening to see the community grow to the level it has today and with that growth, often growing pains that go along with that. Reflecting on some of the challenges the community faced include issues surrounding lake structures, the future developments of Tarawera as a whole, the lake water quality and more recently the issue of the wastewater treatment. In fact, I can also recall considerable debate over the play center placement in the community which of course is now our community center and enjoyed by many of us. All of these events have had the possibility of polarising the community as a whole (and some did) as to the for's and against and all of those different fractions of the community have their own personal reasons for taking their position.

What is really exciting to me as a long-term resident of Tarawera is to see a second and third

generation of stewards coming through and a huge wave of support in general for the efforts of the LTRA and LTWG have put in on behalf of the community as a whole, to show council that we can operate as one. It is therefore appropriate that the phantom was renamed one voice.

I noticed on my way to work this morning that spring is upon us, the community has that fresh and peaceful look about it and everyone seem to be getting their boats and houses in order for the opening of fishing and the upcoming long weekend. What is also good to see is the Spring Fair seems to have grown from strength to strength and has become one of the social events of the year where all the locals generally catch up when their busy lives don't normally allow for that.

We need to remember that we are a community and that being isolated as we are, we rely upon on community spirit to fill in the void that cities don't experience. Those include the volunteer fire brigade, who give up their time willingly to provide a service to the community as a whole, is very easy to forget that. Those people that do so and interrupt their daily lives and their home life with their loved ones to provide that service for us. I think that sits well amongst the feeling of community spirit and as I started this article I have been surprised at the support the community has shown to both the LTWG and the LTRA. It shows us that the Tarawera community is alive and well and is probably more unified than I can recall for a very long time. There seems to be a lack of negativity which is great to see and a genuine feeling of thankfulness that there are people in the community that freely and willingly give up their time for the benefit of the whole.

I guess my short message is, it is easy to be negative, it is courageous to be positive. A thank you to those parties that give up their time freely for the benefit of the community hone in on the positives and be proud those people care enough to actually do something about it. We as the LTRA committee might not get it all right all the time and whilst we enjoy good banter and enquiring questions from any one and anybody, before you do, just remember, none of these volunteer groups be that from the sailing club to the Community Center, to the LTWG, to the LTRA, to the volunteer Fire Brigade all give up

their time freely to make the community as a whole a better place.

I'm proud to live at Tarawera, I'm proud to be a part of the LTRA and I'm proud to see the other support groups around the community that make my community a safer and more enjoyable place to live. I think we have proven that as a community when we collectively operate as one voice we have the ability to make a difference with council

and that has paved the way to a continuance of improvement for the benefit of a whole community going forward, we all thank you for your support in doing what we do for you.

Enjoy the spring, enjoy the opening of fishing, enjoy the spring fair and most of all enjoy the time with your loved ones.

Dave Rendall
LTRA Committee



LTRA Annual General Meeting

Be part of key discussions and decisions

10.00am
11th January, 2026
Tarawera
Community Hall



OCTOBER SPECIAL

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Other species available, Blue gum & Macrocarpa
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JOIN US AT THE Lake Tarawera Spring Fair!

Sunday 26 October 2025 at Stoney Point Reserve
10am start



CASH FAIR CASH FAIR CASH FAIR CASH FAIR CASH FAIR

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 Reserve, Spencer Road, Lake Tarawera. Main parking is at Rangioru Bay and mobility parking is available at Stoney Point.

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

- Pottery
- Wood Turners
- Preserves
- Coffee and • Baking
- Bric a Brac
- And a wide selection of other delightful Christmas gifts and loads of activities for the kids (and adult kids)!

If you have anything to donate – big or small, or full bottles for the tombola stand please phone: Carol 0274423333

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 and a much-

needed coffee truck, plus so much more!

Famous Sailing Auction

Don't miss our Sailing 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!

The Lake Tarawera Spring Fair is run on behalf of the Lake Tarawera Ratepayers Association (LTRA).

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, and remember it's a cash only Fair.

"I'M NOT GOING FAR"



*No lifejacket
No excuse*



**TOI MOANA
BAY OF PLENTY
REGIONAL COUNCIL**



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

Harbourmaster Team Update – Spring 2025:

Summer Long Term Weather Forecast – Stay Safe Out There! According to NIWA, we're in for a warm summer with a high chance of above-average temperatures.

That means it's shaping up to be another busy season on the water. So, now's the time to start thinking about boating safety, before the boats and water toys come out of storage for the summer.

Recent weather has shown just how unpredictable things can be – heavy rain and hail turned roads white not long ago! Similarly, conditions on the water can change in a flash, so being prepared ahead of time is crucial. Here's a quick pre-summer checklist:

- Is your boat serviced and ready?
- Have you checked all safety gear?
- Lifejackets for everyone?
- Two reliable forms of communication?
- EPIRB tested?
- Flares in date?
- Anchor working properly?
- **Checked the forecast?** If you're unsure, don't go out.
- **Briefed your passengers?** Make sure they know what to expect and what to do in an emergency.
- **Logged a trip report?** Let someone know where you're going and when you'll be back. Better yet, call Coastguard Radio on Channel

02 with your vessel name (or call sign), number of people onboard, departure point, destination, and return time.

- **Know the Rules!** Get a copy of your Boating in the Bay from any Marine shop or take a look online [Boating in the Bay of Plenty](#) (on the BOPRC website)

These might seem like small, simple steps – and they are – but they could make a huge difference in an emergency. Let's all play our part to ensure a safe and enjoyable summer on the water.

Join us on the water this Summer. If you love being out on the lake, this could be the perfect summer job for you! We're on the lookout for skippers and crew to join the team and patrol our beautiful lakes to support safe boating during the busy months ahead.

In this paid role which includes full training, you'll be helping ensure everyone follows the Navigation Safety Bylaws. Training starts soon, so if you're interested, send a brief cover letter outlining your experience, along with your CV, to Roly Bagshaw roly.bagshaw@boprc.govt.nz.



SOME OF OUR MAHI

Pumping and removing sunken vessels, recovering debris that could become a navigation hazard are just some of the jobs we undertake in our role. If you're out on the water and see anything that could be a navigational safety hazard (particularly after heavy rainfall) please notify us 0800 5 KNOTS (0800 55 66 87)



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







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PHOTO: Geoff Thomas
A pair of rainbow trout spawn in a stream at Lake Tarawera.

Spring '25: Cast Your Line

As spring approaches thousands of tiny trout will emerge from the gravel in streams like the Te Wairoa, Wairua and the Outlet where the adult fish laid their eggs during the winter. For these parents it has been an exhausting couple of months.

Unlike salmon they do not die but return to the lake. Some will regain body fat and spawn for a second time, as rainbows can live to five years; while brown trout may live to eight years, which is why they are generally larger.

For the hatchlings life is very dangerous, and few survive to make it to the lake where they grow quickly. A female rainbow trout may carry 3000 eggs, or ova, with larger specimens producing more. But of every thousand eggs laid in the gravel bed of a stream an average of only two or three individuals will return as mature adults to repeat the process three years later. As they grow the baby trout first called fry, then fingerlings, are eaten by birds like shags and by eels and other fish.

All of the trout and salmon in this country

were introduced, mainly from North America in the late 1880's. For there are no members of the salmonid family native to the southern hemisphere. During the millions of years over which this family of fishes developed they could not pass the warm tropical seas along the equator.

The salmon, which are portrayed in television documentaries entering the rivers of Alaska and Canada in vast numbers, have a different life story. They, too, must run a gauntlet of predators which range from grizzly bears to wolves, seagulls and eagles. In fact the great salmon runs in the cold northern countries from Scandinavia to Russia to North America are a vital element in the ecosystem, providing sustenance to all of the animals and birds which rely on the multitudes of fish to build up reserves

of fat to carry them through the harsh winters. And the adult salmon do it only once. Their life story is a fascinating one; one which has enthralled and eluded scientists. The baby salmon migrate downstream over their first year of life and enter the sea as smolts where they live for two years, growing quickly on rich food like herrings and krill. Then, like the trout, they mature sexually and while trout will return to the stream in which they were hatched which is a short distance from the lake, salmon will travel thousands of kilometres as they work their way up rivers and into tributaries – finally arriving to within three metres of where they were hatched three years earlier. How they achieve this is one of the great mysteries of nature, and scientists can not decide whether it is driven by the influence of the moon, the earth's electromagnetic fields or water chemistry or smell.

The fish pair up with males fighting for a spot beside a female and the larger males prevail, supporting Charles Darwin's theory of the survival of the fittest with only the strongest individuals breeding.

But, unlike streams on our lakes, the water in arctic streams is so cold it is virtually sterile in terms of food generation, and this is where the adult salmon make the ultimate sacrifice. After the females deposit their eggs in a shallow depression in the gravel which are fertilised by the males, the adults weaken and die. And it is their carcasses breaking down which provide the nutrients as the basis of the food chain for the hatchlings, so the whole process can start again.

In this country trout spawn between late April and August, peaking in June and July. Most spawning streams and the headwaters of larger rivers are closed to fishing to protect the fish and allow them to reproduce, and so sustain the population in the lakes. Salmon are found mainly in the large Canterbury rivers, and they spawn in the autumn but the runs start in November and carry on through the summer. This is a similar pattern to the different species of salmon in the northern hemisphere, which start running up the rivers in midsummer. This allows the predators which rely on the annual arrival of their main food supply to feed actively before the cold temperatures of autumn arrive. In nature there is a purpose to everything, and nothing is random.

And it is not just the wildlife that relies on the annual runs of salmon but also the surrounding

forests gain vital nutrients from decaying salmon carcasses dragged away from the river and left by wolves, foxes and bears.



PHOTO: Geoff Thomas
Two-year-old rainbows make up the bulk of the catch in the spring, like these fish which average 1.8kg. Note the trout in the middle has a yellow tag in its back. Fish and Game tag 1500 fingerlings every year (out of a total of 10,000 across three liberations in summer, autumn and spring), and they ask anglers to send in details of fish caught, with the tag number. This can be done online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QCH5ZR6>.

Written by Geoff Thomas
The Outdoors Adventurer



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Message from Her Worship the Mayor, Tania Tapsell

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

With the warmer weather returning, my family and I enjoyed being back on Lake Tarawera on 1st of October for the opening of trout fishing season!

It was great to see many locals and visitors getting amongst it as well – don't forget to check, clean and dry any gear if moving between catchments please.

Short-Term Rental Accommodation

Tarawera has a number of properties used for short-term rental accommodation which allow many visitors a year to enjoy the beauty of our lakes. Here's a quick update on our decision to apply the Business and Economic Development

Targeted Rate (BEDTR) to short-term rental accommodation providers.

We introduced this Policy as part of our Long-Term Plan adopted last year and the BEDTR rate helps fund Rotorua's tourism marketing and promotion. Last financial year this generated \$450k of revenue and we're expecting \$738k this year. This is a significant amount of revenue, outside of general rates, that we're able to invest directly into attracting visitors to Rotorua and supporting our local economy.

We've also set up a working party, with representatives from the sector, to review the Policy and suggest improvements to Council. This work is now underway and we look forward to receiving this important feedback to ensure the Policy is working as intended.

Tarawera Sewerage Scheme

A big thank you to all Tarawera residents who've already signed their locality plans for the Tarawera Sewerage Scheme, you're helping to keep this important project progressing. Signing these plans is crucial for Stage 2 of the project and ensures your property can be connected to the new reticulation network.

Your signed locality plan means installation of the low-pressure grinder pump systems can go ahead on your property. It ensures the location of the pump is recorded for future maintenance and replacement (that's council's responsibility), identifies if any Heritage NZ checks are needed, and allows us to apply for the building consent needed to connect your home plumbing to the system.

Currently, 126 properties are ready for installation, 85 installations are already underway, and 147 locality plans still need to be signed.

If your property is ready for installation, we strongly encourage you to finalise those plans. Our contractors need to do a site visit in order for you to do this. If you haven't booked this in yet, please contact DDL Goodrick on 027 235 0967 or email TaraweraSP2@ddl.nz to arrange a time.

We've worked hard to keep costs down for Tarawera ratepayers by securing extra funding from Government, the Regional Council, and the wider Rotorua ratepayers. If affordability is a concern, please call us on 07 348 4199 to discuss payment options, including rates postponement.

For more project details, visit rlc.net.nz/tss

Kindest regards,
Tania Tapsell
Her Worship the Mayor of Rotorua

Written by Tania Tapsell
Her Worship the Mayor of Rotorua



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Lakeland Queen Savior

Well, it began like this... One day, Damon came home and said, “Guess what? I just bought a boat – and a jetty.” Not just any boat, but the 32-metre paddle boat, the Lakeland Queen – the Lady of the Lake.

Although the purchase price was reasonable, the restoration has cost us personally millions. By the time we are fully back in service, it will probably be around \$3 million. This beautiful boat had once been the pride and heartbeat of Lake Rotorua, carrying tourists and locals alike, filled with music, laughter, and clinking glasses.

The Restoration Begins

Damon, determined not to see the boat scrapped, set out on the daunting task of restoring her – inside, outside, and everywhere in between. Daughter Kimberley and wife Arna began repainting the interior, cleaning, and organizing. Then Damon joined in, and together we quickly realized – this boat is huge.

The Community Effort

When the local Tarawera community and

neighbors from Paradise Valley heard that help was required, they all pitched in. For months, people worked hard, cleaning, restoring, and organizing everything on board. Then came a moment of magic: famous entertainer Howie Morrison Jr. stepped in and finished painting the entire interior of the vessel. We are so grateful for the incredible support from everyone. This project has truly been a community effort, filled with generosity, goodwill, and pride in seeing the Queen rise again.

Looking Ahead

It is our dream to see everyone enjoying this beautiful vessel once more. We are also grateful to welcome back our General Manager, Markus Dietzel, whose expertise and leadership are invaluable as we prepare to relaunch. Hopefully, she will be back in November. We are now

waiting for final resource consents and a liquor license before we can begin. And when that day comes, the Lady of the Lake will once again sail proudly across Rotorua – restored, renewed, and ready to welcome you aboard.



Rotorua Daily Post 12h · 🌐

Singer Howard Morrison jnr will be the new entertainment manager for the Lakeland Queen when the iconic Rotorua paddleboat is back in business later this year. 📌





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"Pete and his team were an integral part of our high spec new build during 2022 -2023. I cannot speak more highly of their communication, the quality of their work, their attention to ensuring an excellent finish, their willingness to work around other trades and the value for money they offered."

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

PHOTO: Meg Lipscombe

Pest Control – October 2025

It's pest control season, and our local Ratmeister expert shares a fascinating look into the lives of rats, possums, wasps, and rabbits.

RATS

We resumed Rat baiting after a winter break, in line with our seasonal baiting strategy. It's too early to tell if there are more or less rats than last year. In my own kill traps there are less rats than 2024 and I don't know why that is.

Soon you may see some 500 mm lengths of sewage pipe along Spencer Rd. These enclose an inked paper strip that captures the foot prints rodents and is used to estimate populations. They will have a permanent site and be used for year by year population comparisons. There will be 24 of them.



HUNGRY RATS

This is a photo of a Pils Peanut butter jar I had in my garage, it had been well washed out and I was going to use it for storage because they are great jars. As you can see it has, even with only peanut butter smell in it, been irresistible to a rat. Rats teeth are constantly growing and they need to gnaw on things to keep them controlled. I could tell the rat had been inside this jar and on the top LHS there is another potential entry point partially chewed.

I will often analyse the contents of a rat's stomachs that I catch and it surprises me what a load of chewings are in their gut. Paper, plastic, electrical cord covering, bits of material, squab foam, you name it.

I would be seriously annoyed if I was a rat to do all that chewing, fill my gut with plastic shards and find there was no pot of peanut butter at the end of this particular plastic rainbow.

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POSSUMS

Possums, I am not hearing possums being the issue they have been in the past although I have one in the garden that is evading my attempts to capture it. (Update I have caught it). My simple population estimation involves counting the dead possums on the road and I might be wrong but there seem to be more dead possums on the road this compared with 2024.

WASPS

Bit too early for any wasp activity but I am thinking with a not so cold winter they will be out in force to make our lives unpleasant. If you see any wasp nests get hold of me and I will sort it out.

RABBITS

Just when I thought they were not the problem they have been they come out in force on the back of a mild winter I suspect. I will get out and shoot some to see if that makes a difference to the population. It did last time.

Written by Ratmeister



Pest Wasp Survey Findings Are In

The Moths and Butterflies of NZ Trust has now released the findings from the survey on public awareness and attitudes toward introduced pest wasps. This research, which gathered feedback on identifying these pests and your thoughts on control measures, is crucial for shaping future strategies for wasp control and public education efforts that protect our native ecosystems.

You can click on the link to read the full findings and see how your input is helping: <https://www.nzbutterflies.org.nz/project/pest-wasps-survey/>

Tū te Ihiihi, Tū te Wanawana

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PHOTO: Courtesy of Fenella Playne

Fenella Playne: The Lady, The Land, and a Life Well Lived

Fenella Playne is as far from a shrinking violet as you could imagine. A passionate gardener and skilled floral artist, she is also a woman of quiet strength, discipline, and resolve.

Having lived at Longfords Farm for seventy years, her roots in this land and community run deep. She is very aware of God's presence here, and feels blessed. She has no intention of leaving, having already written her own death notice: died at home! Whether arranging roses or facing life's harder moments, Fenella has always done so with grace and purpose.

From a twenty-year-old bride, Karitane nurse, and seamstress, to a counsellor and steward of one of the region's most admired gardens, Fenella has lived not in the spotlight but entirely on her own terms.

From Nurse to Life at Longfords

Fenella trained as a Karitane nurse in Wellington, known for her calm professionalism and care

until her engagement to Nat.

One early highlight came before she moved to the farm. Her uncle Den was being decorated by the Queen during her 1953 coronation visit to New Zealand, and Fenella was one of three family members attending. She was formally presented to Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip at Government House. She still recalls it vividly: "Prince Philip was magnificently handsome in his grey morning suit."

In her last year of nursing training, Fenella took four days' leave to join her parents at the Rotorua races. There she met Nat Playne, then 38 to her 19. "He was very Clark Gabley," she laughs. The connection for Fenella was not instant, but following that first meeting, Nat set

about courting her with quiet persistence. In time, he soon convinced Fenella to accept his attentions, despite their age gap and differing backgrounds.

They married in 1956 at St Mary of the Angels, Wellington, with afternoon tea at her grandmother's Kelburn home. After a South Island honeymoon, they collected Nat's mother Lucy from the Majestic Hotel and returned to Longfords. Life there came with challenges. Living next door to Nat's formidable mother, who retained influence over the household and farm finances, was not easy. Yet Fenella held her ground with resilience, raising their three children, Henry, Sarah, and Lucy, with quiet dignity.



A Garden That Grew with Freedom

When Lucy died in 1979, Nat and Fenella finally moved into the brick house.

Fenella then began shaping the gardens at Longfords that would become her hallmark. She asked Nat to flatten land, to build a pond, and she redesigned the rose beds, planting only red roses in groups of four. Her gardens soon drew visitors by the busload, hosting fundraising events and family weddings. Later, with the help

of a landscape designer, she introduced more symmetry into her garden, while ensuring the design was also softened in its character. "There is order in the garden," she says. "But it was important that it mustn't feel stiff."

For years she created floral arrangements for weddings, church services, and community events. Always generous, never ostentatious. Until recently, she was still arranging flowers weekly at St Luke's.

Grace, Hospitality, and Precision

Inside the home, Fenella ran her household with quiet pride. A skilled seamstress, she sewed nearly all her own and her family's clothes, working from Vogue patterns with exceptional precision. Tailored coats, dresses, and children's outfits came from long nights at the sewing machine.

Her afternoon teas are legendary. Proper tea and coffee served on a tray, milk in a jug, sugar tongs at the ready. Not for show, but as a reflection of care. Presentation, even in the smallest details, has always been her way of living well.

Lifelong Learner, Quiet Counsellor

In her forties, Fenella enrolled at the newly opened Waiariki Polytechnic, one of its first



psychology students. At the time it was a remarkable step. She later became a counsellor, offering calm insight, thoughtful listening, and helping people find their way through difficult times.

Her nursing days had taught her practical compassion. She once helped save a premature baby with a drop of brandy. That same blend of calm courage and care defined her work as a counsellor.

A Family Property in Transition

After Nat's death in 1997, Fenella remained at Longfords. She continued hosting weddings and welcoming guests. Farming changed, and so did the property. To sustain the land, the family turned to new ventures.

Lucy now runs Horse Trekking Lake Ōkāreka, guiding visitors to panoramic views. Sarah, a landscape designer, restored the shearers' quarters for guest accommodation. The woolshed hosts community events. Weddings and lunches on Fenella's lawn continue to this day.

Stewardship, Not Ownership

Fenella and Nat always saw themselves as stewards, not owners. She insists on thinking long-term. "This is a special area of the Rotorua Lakes district," she says. "You must think 100 years ahead."

Protecting waterways, restoring bush, and creating wetland in partnership with iwi and the wider community has been central. Today, that wetland filters runoff, shelters birdlife, and offers a public walkway where sheep once grazed. It is a living legacy.

A Lasting Presence

Having just celebrated her 90th birthday this past September, Fenella remains active. She walks daily with her dog Pasha, tends her garden, and continues to live with order and energy. She has never sought the spotlight, but her influence is clear in the trees, the gatherings, and the values she has instilled.

Her advice for a good day is simple: "Get outside. Count your blessings, be grateful, and always do what you do well."



TAILORED SPACES, BUILT FOR SUMMER

TAILOREDBUILDS.CO.NZ



As the days get longer and the lake starts calling, it's the perfect time to consider how well your home works for you - especially outdoors. To make the most of summer days and nights at the lake, your outdoor space should be every bit as inviting and functional as the inside.

At Tailored Builds, we specialise in making the best of every square metre, including thoughtfully designed outdoor living spaces.

Thinking about a larger deck for lounging, or a BBQ area that makes entertaining easy? Perhaps it's time to open your home to the outdoors with an extension, or bigger doors that draw the lakeside in?

We create smart, functional upgrades that are tailored to you and add lasting value to your home - whether that's a full renovation or a few finishing touches before summer arrives.

Let's get your place summer-ready.



John Goad 022 524 5741
Steve Webb 027 300 9804





PHOTO: Courtesy of Fenella Playne

Guardians of the Land

How the Playne Family Helped Shape Lake Tarawera

When Somerset Playne arrived in New Zealand in the early 20th century, he saw more than natural beauty. An adventurer from an early age, he travelled with a retinue of five and sought out new lands. A world traveller and author, he had already documented the economies and cultures of British colonies in Africa and India. But it was Aotearoa that stood out as a place of promise.

He visited three times. His first trip inspired his 1910 publication, *New Zealand – Ao-tea-roa: Its History, Commerce, and Industrial Resources*. He returned in 1917, marrying Lucy-May Standidge in Hawke's Bay. Their son Nathaniel (Nat) was born the following year in Barrackpore, near Calcutta. By 1937, with the growing threat of Hitler and Europe on the brink of war, Somerset resolved to secure land in New Zealand for Nat. Today, the communities around Lakes Ōkāreka and Tarawera have been shaped not only by Somerset's decision to purchase the

land, but particularly by Nat's hard work and determination in developing it into what is now Longfords Farm.

From the Empire to Ōkāreka

Somerset Playne was born in Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire and educated at Clifton College and St Edward's, Oxford. From a family steeped in public service, he travelled widely through North America and the colonies. His interest in history, commerce, and industry brought him to New Zealand, where he wrote his landmark volume, published in 1910.

In 1916, he married Lucy-May Standidge of southern Hawke's Bay. Their son Nat was born in 1918. Somerset later bought a home on the Thames at Mapledurham, Reading, and Lucy returned there with baby Nat and his nursemaid after another journey to New Zealand. Nat's youth was spent at prep school and then Pangbourne Nautical College, before

Cirencester Agricultural College, where, by his own account, he “learnt more about pubs than farming”.

By the mid-1930s Somerset, foreseeing war, planned to purchase land in New Zealand. In 1937, he and Nat found 5,000 acres at Lake Ōkāreka. They flew over the property with an agent, fell in love with the lake district, and bought it for £5,000.

The holding comprised two Crown lease blocks and one freehold, stretching from Ōkāreka to the edge of Lake Tarawera. Soon after, 1,000 acres were sold to Ronald Alexander Miller.

Nat was less enthusiastic than his father, having imagined a property more like his grandparents’ Hawke’s Bay estate. He arrived to find scrub, bush, and isolation. Life began in a tent. He sowed pastures by hand, cleared land, and built stone walls. The land itself, though raw, was unusually fertile. The ash and mud from the 1886 Tarawera eruption and deposits from Lake Rotomahana had left the soil rich, helping his early efforts take root. Yet he also grew to love the native bush, allowing the hillsides he had once cleared to regenerate.

Sundays were the height of Nat’s social week, communion at St Luke’s and breakfast at the

Grand Hotel, where he cut a dashing figure with his car and fine wardrobe.

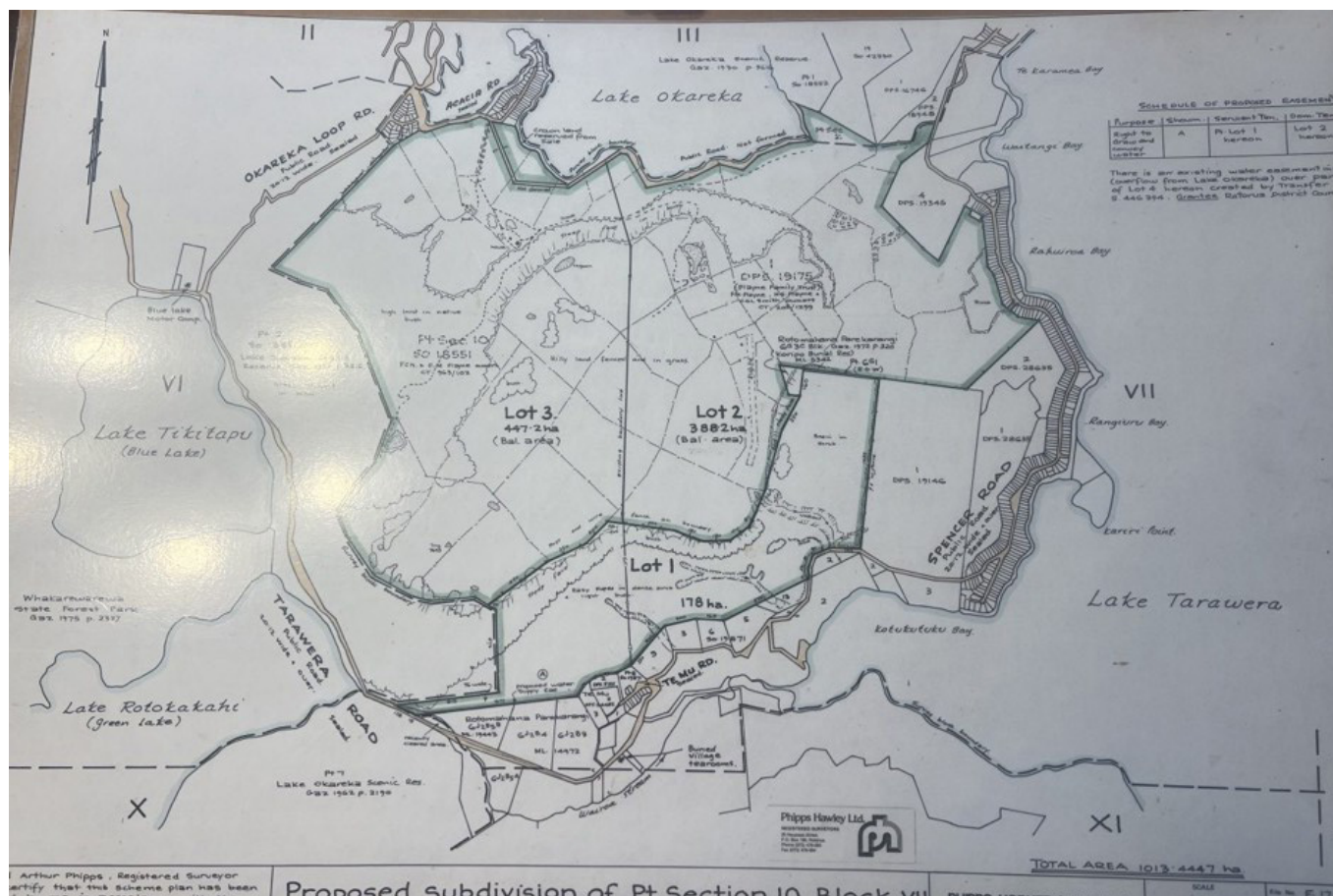
In 1939, Nat wrote to his father declaring his intention to enlist and fight for New Zealand. Somerset urged him to wait until his return. When Somerset and Lucy-May arrived later that year, travelling by tramp steamer to Gisborne and spending several months at the Grand Hotel before settling at Longfords, Nat wasted no time. Within a week of their arrival he had joined up at Trentham. Before leaving for war, he planted the towering London plane trees that still line the Longfords driveway today.

Shaping the Western Shoreline

In 1939, a 1,000-acre portion of the estate on the northern shore of Lake Tarawera was sold to Ronald Alexander Miller, who retained the lake frontage and on-sold the back blocks. Around Waitangi Bay, land that had remained in Māori ownership passed first to Sir Rupert Clarke and later to Auckland businessman Harold Thomas. Yet all of it was accessible only by boat, and permanent settlement would only be possible once a road was established.

Building Spencer Road

In the 1940s, Nat Playne, Ron Miller, and Harold Thomas agreed to build an access road from Tarawera Landing along the western shoreline.



In 1946, they settled on the costs: Playne would pay five-ninths, Miller three-ninths, and Thomas one-ninth.

Miller began the work with his own bulldozer, but difficulties with a watercourse led the County Engineer to halt progress and cancel his contract. Work then moved ahead when Playne engaged George Giltrap, later a well-known Rotorua developer. Nat contributed a small bulldozer from the farm, which was soon replaced by a larger unit shipped from Christchurch. Rotorua County Council supported the project by installing culverts and carrying out blasting, while the landowners reimbursed materials and labour. Road surfacing came from a nearby lake reserve, where clearing gorse and scrub was welcomed as an improvement.

By October 1947, four miles of road had been completed at a cost of £4,855. In 1949, the Council officially adopted it. The creation of Spencer Road was a turning point, making land once reachable only by boat accessible for settlement.

Tarawera Grows

With the road complete, Playne moved quickly to begin subdivision. Wellington surveyors

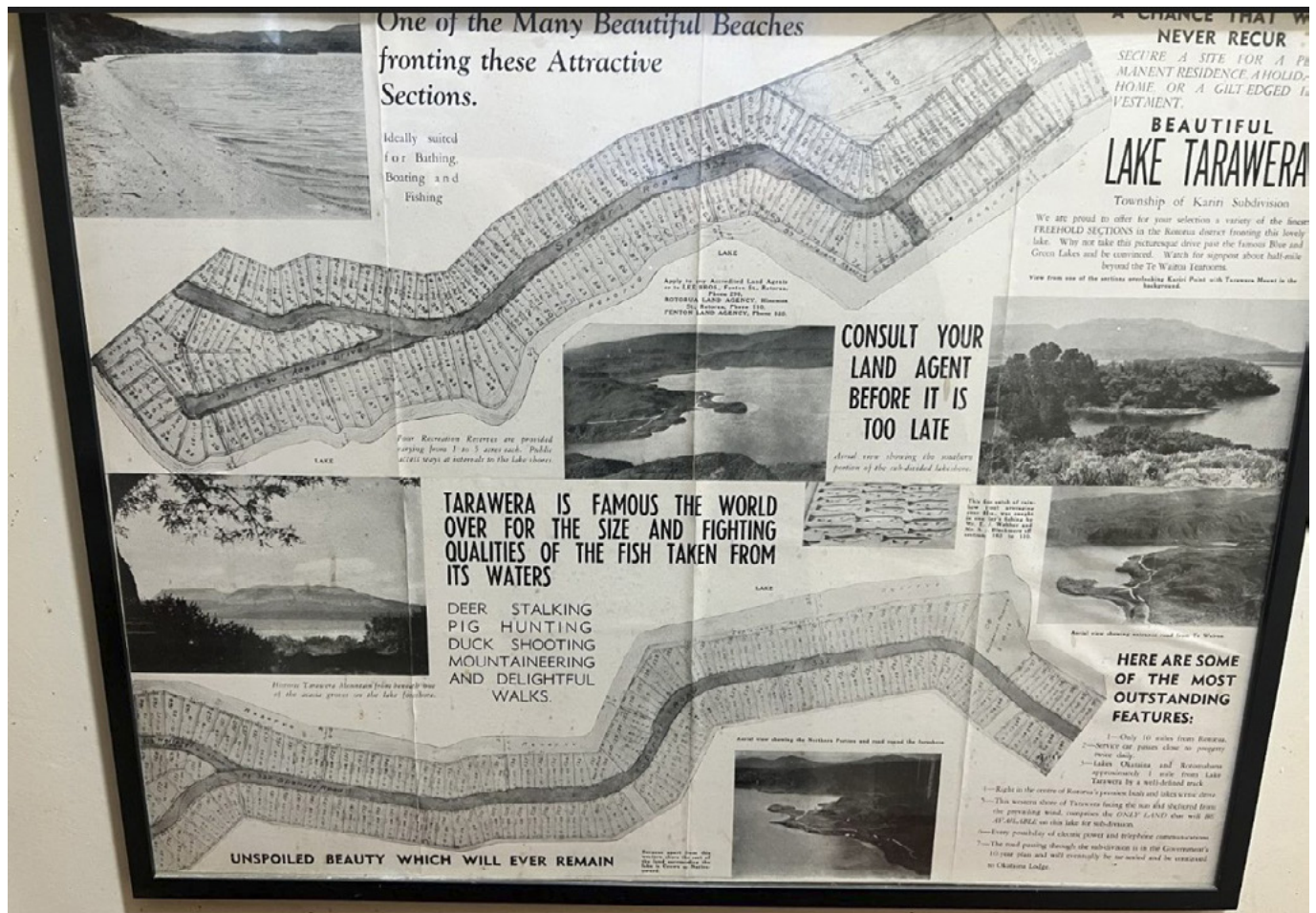
Robinson and Arthurs laid out sections, many of which were sold as fishing retreats and holiday homes. Buyers were drawn by Tarawera's reputation for trophy trout and its untouched bush setting.

Early families such as the Donalds, who had camped in the area before the war, were among the first purchasers. They set the tone for Tarawera as a place of seasonal gatherings, hunting, and fishing, with cottages that became summer hubs for extended whānau. Growth, however, was slow. In the early 1970s, fewer than 15 people lived at Tarawera year-round. By 1975, rural mail delivery and a school bus service finally arrived, signalling the shift from holiday retreat to a more settled community.

Proceeds from land sales were reinvested in the Ōkāreka farm. Nat upgraded fencing, boosted fertility, and modernised operations. The farm later hosted the Bay of Plenty's first private airstrip and became a model of efficient land management, balancing productivity with an increasing awareness of the need to protect the surrounding environment.

Adapting to a Changing Landscape

Nat died in 1997, leaving a legacy of land management and regeneration. But by then,



concerns over water quality at Tarawera were growing. Nutrient runoff from farms and overflow from septic tanks threatened the lake.

The response was collective. The Playne family supported fencing off waterways and establishing a wetland buffer between farm and lake. This became a flagship example of iwi, community, and landowners working together. The wetland now filters runoff, provides habitat for birdlife, and offers a walkway where sheep once grazed, opened in 2003.

A Lasting Legacy

The development of the Lake Ōkāreka and Lake Tarawera areas was not the product of grand government schemes, but of individuals prepared to commit for the long term. Through roads, farming, and regeneration, the Playne family helped turn an isolated stretch of bush into a place where people could live, visit, and connect.

While the farm has evolved, the sense of stewardship remains. Today it balances conservation, community use, and new ways of sustaining the land. A second article in this

newsletter explores that legacy through the life of Fenella Playne, who brought her own vision and vitality to Longfords after Nat's death.

The road carved through the forest in the 1940s still carries people to this place. It remains a quiet reminder that careful development takes time, and that the right kind of change can endure for generations.

The background of the advertisement is a detailed plumbing blueprint. It features various technical drawings, including cross-sections of pipes, valves, and fixtures. Annotations like "DROP LINTELOVER" and "12°" are visible. In the top left corner, there is a pair of pliers. In the bottom right corner, there is a braided metal hose with a brass fitting. The logo for "WOOLFORD BROS PLUMBING" is prominently displayed in the center, with "MIKE WOOLFORD" and "CERTIFIED PLUMBER" below it. Contact information, including a phone number and email address, is provided at the bottom.

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PHOTO: Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana
Aerial image at the bottom of the fan taken by drone a couple of years ago. These wilding pines will be targeted in the first year of control by the contract crew

Caring for Taiao Caring for Whānau

Update from Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitihi Trust

Spring is a season of renewal, and for Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitihi Trust, it's also a time of action in our mahi to restore balance to our lands and waters.

Right now, we are preparing to tackle wilding pine control on Tarawera Maunga. These trees spread quickly, taking over native forest and affecting our waterways. By removing them, we give space for our native plants and wildlife to thrive again.

This mahi is not done alone. We work alongside the Department of Conservation, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, and local contractors – and most importantly, with the support of the community. Every step is guided by a commitment to protect both the environment and the people involved. We prioritise everyone's safety on the whenua while maintaining tikanga Māori.

This project is just one part of a three-year programme. As we continue, we'll keep sharing updates and welcome kōrero with anyone who would like to know more. Together, we can protect our taiao so future generations can continue to enjoy the beauty and mana of Tarawera.

“Toitū te marae o Tāne, toitū te marae o Tangaroa, toitū te tangata.”
If the domain of Tāne (the forests) is intact, and the domain of Tangaroa (the waters) is intact, then the people will thrive.

D'Arcy Stoneham
Tiaki Taiao/Assistant Environmental
Manager, Ngāti Rangitihi



Lake Security Spring Newsletter

Dear Clients and Community Members,

As the warmer weather approaches, we at Lake Security are excited to share some wonderful updates with you. Our commitment to keeping our community safe and secure has never been stronger, and we are thrilled to see increased support and trust within our neighborhood.

GROWING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Thanks to your support and confidence, Lake Security has seen a significant increase in presence and service in the community. This growth allows us to expand our services, strengthen our patrols, and enhance our response times, ensuring your safety remains our top priority.

ENHANCING LAKE SAFETY

Spring is the perfect time for outdoor activities and enjoying our beautiful lake, this also increases the amount of visitors and would-be offenders in our community. To keep everyone safe, we've increased patrols around the lake area, clients properties, focusing on boat safety, proper signage, and patrolling popular spots. Remember to always wear life jackets and follow local boating regulations. I will be liaising with the Coast Guard and Harbour Master closely throughout the busy summer period.

INCREASED PATROLS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Our community security patrols and general presence will be increasing in popular areas during peak hours and weekends as the lake and community begins to fill up. I am dedicated to maintaining a safe environment, whether you're out for a walk, enjoying water sports, or relaxing at home. We also encourage community members to report any suspicious activity or safety concerns directly to me on either mobile or landline any time day or night.

DDL WORK AND COUNCIL SITE VISITS

As DDL continue to work on sewage connections I am keeping in close contact

with Hamish and his team so if you have any concerns about them entering or carrying out work on your property please feel free to get in touch.

I have been informed that the council along with Iwi Representatives from Tuhourangi Tribal Authority will be visiting sites of cultural significance in early October. Once again I will be working closely with the group doing the visits and will make sure any affected property owner is made aware.

SPRING SAFETY TIPS

- Keep an eye on children near the water.
- Secure your home and belongings against any potential thefts.
- Install or update your security devices to stay protected.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TRUST

Your safety and peace of mind are our highest priorities. We look forward to a safe, enjoyable spring season together. If you have any questions, suggestions, or require assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us.

If you want to chat, catch up or are curious about how our services can support and benefit you and your property please feel free to get in touch. I will also be at my usual spot at the spring fair on Labour Weekend. Stay safe, stay secure, and enjoy the beautiful spring days ahead!

Warm regards,

The Lake Security Team
George, Eden, Archie, Evie and the dogs

027 282 9034
07 3628 378
Gilmour06@gmail.com

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

George.gilmour@fireandemergency.nz



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The Black Barn, Lake Tarawera

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info@theblackbarn.co.nz

027 631 1970

Image by Grace Jones Photography

TaraweraFM Goes Digital

tarawerafm.nz

After we moved to this wonderful community in 2021 I was at a Friday evening drinks chatting with Owen about TaraweraFM. I have a background in Electronic Engineering and I was keen to understand how his radio broadcast all hung together. When Owen went away on holiday he asked me to look after the system and get things back up and running if there were any issues. This then developed to Owen asking me if I'd be interested in putting together some radio shows. So far I've created 12 x one hour shows covering various genres, not all to my taste, but it isn't about me, e.g. disco! I hope that these have been well received. The latest 3 shows are due to be broadcast across Labour Weekend.

Over this time Owen has expressed an interest in extending the reach of TaraweraFM since the FM broadcast can be patchy, due to our hilly terrain, and is totally lost as we drive past the Black Barn. TaraweraFM could be used as an important communication tool for the community in any adverse event and it was felt it would be a good idea to extend the broadcast to digital where people can receive it on mobile, tablet or computer through a browser.

Owen spent a long time researching what products could be used, easily implemented, maintained and upgraded at minimal cost, i.e. as close to \$0 as possible. These ranged from all-in-one radio broadcast products through to products that we would have to hook together. No prizes for guessing which approach was cheapest! The current broadcast computers run WindowsXP and are older than my 2006 Toyota Corolla. They really belong in a museum or skip and can't be used as there are more than a few security exposures putting such old systems online. Kind donations of old desktops and laptops have been received and we have installed updated free versions of Linux to these computers. Owen tried to install one of the all-in-one products, but this had varying degrees of success and we didn't have confidence to broadcast with it long term. So, I sat down with Owen and we decided to

build, and host, our own webserver and to feed the audio out from the current radio station through a couple of products to make it able to be streamed through the webserver. All these products cost nothing, just our sanity. I spent 42 years in IT but never had the need to build a webserver, nor configure broadcast products, but how hard could it be?!

It's been an interesting couple of months and thanks to Google, some thanks to ChatGPT, and some diversions from ChatGPT, we are there! I quickly found that if ChatGPT doesn't know an answer it just makes something up that sounds plausible. When you have a 200 line configuration file full of html code and java script and ChatGPT suggests something that sends it down the dunny it can be a little frustrating. It was both a nice surprise and a very satisfying moment when I got the webserver to play out a playlist that I was receiving on my phone, which originated at a Windows10 laptop in my living room, through a Linux laptop in my dining room, out of my router to the outside world, around the world, and back to my phone using mobile data. We tested for a couple of weeks to check the broadcast was stable and had good audio, and some old friends in the UK listened and gave some great feedback. We had a bunch of reboots to do to roll in some tweaks that we had to make along the way. It was then quite straightforward to get the input from the FM radio broadcast and we are now running live. It's still a work in progress with plans to run it all from the Community Centre but there are a few technical issues to get through first.

Owen has some great plans and ideas for the station to broaden its scope and appeal, so hopefully you'll tune in and find something you enjoy listening to. I just realised that I haven't yet said how you can listen on digital. Simply use a browser on your mobile, tablet or desktop and go to **tarawerafm.nz**. You can listen from anywhere you have internet connectivity and keep up with events in Tarawera from around the world. Enjoy!

Tarawera
87.5 FM
Live streaming on
www.tarawerafm.nz

Back of the Bus: Oskar Smith

Oskar is 6, nearly 7 living at Tarawera with his brother, 2 sisters and his Mum & Dad who homeschool him. He's a 5th generation Tarawera Community member having moved back here from Australia almost two years ago. He lived the early part of his life at Charlies Camp with his parents and grandparents, around the corner from Hot Water Beach and used to come back by boat to Rangiuru Bay daily with his dad who came to work.

He has a great group of friends in the Community enjoying events at the Community Centre and he's also friends with holiday makers who come regularly

Oskar loves his sport and helping his Grandad, Kor to hunt. He rides and races at the Rotorua BMX club and loves the jumps

Oskar is really looking forward to summer with swimming planned and an exciting new boat to play in with his family.



LTRA Annual General Meeting

Be part of key discussions and decisions

10.00am
11th January, 2026
Tarawera
Community Hall





What's On at the Lake Tarawera Community Hall

Community Hall Alive with Winter Fun and Fundraising Wins

It's been a lively few weeks at the community hall, with locals showing up in style for a string of well-supported events.

The Winter Wilderness Party kicked things off, bringing neighbours together for a night of wild-themed dress-up – which, as always, brought out a few creatures not often seen in daylight. Next up was a Movie Night organised and Sponsored by Jenny Donne and the Bayleys Team featuring a screening of *The Castle* and a spirited auction. The event was a great success, raising much-needed funds for upgrading the hall toilets!

The auctioneering team who go by the name The Geriatric Gentlemen – brought their charm and enthusiasm – and Torrey Archibald, the token non-geriatric, who seasoned with some

youthful energy to keep the bids flowing.

A highlight of the night was the sale of stunning local artworks by Pat Thorpe and Angie Mackay, which fetched excellent prices and reminded everyone of the creative talent in our midst. With events like these, the community hall continues to be a place where good things happen—and now, hopefully soon, with even better plumbing!

Written by Claire Stewart









LAKE TARAWERA SAILING 2025/2026

Registration Day

- Families are welcome to come along and learn to sail together
- Training craft and other yachts are provided
- Adult learners are also very welcome
- Come along and check us out

**SUNDAY 16
NOVEMBER
2025**

2.00 PM

CLIFF ROAD RESERVE



**COME
ALONG
AND GET
INVOLVED**

PLEASE CONTACT CAROL GILCHRIST FOR ALL ENQUIRIES. PH 027 442 3333

New Leadership for the Lake Tarawera Community Group

Welcome to Eden Gilmour as the new Chairperson for the Lake Tarawera Community Group.

Eden steps into the role following the dedicated service of Fred Stevens, who is stepping down after eight years at the helm.

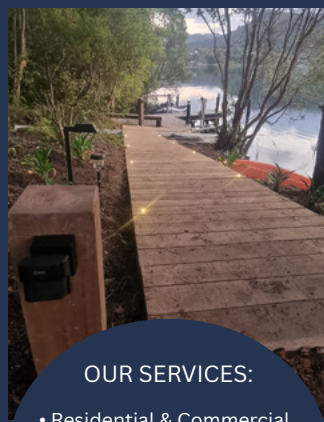
The committee extends its sincere gratitude to Fred for his long-standing commitment and hard work.

Eden is supported by a strong and dedicated committee, including:

Claire Stewart (Secretary)
Alison Walker (Treasurer)
Murray Dillner (Hall Bookings Coordinator)
Tony Perks (Maintenance)
Owen Dawe (Tarawera FM)
Renee Anderson
Chris Gilmour

COLLAB ELECTRICAL

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ROTORUA & BEYOND



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- Indoor & Outdoor Lighting
- Heat Pumps
- Internet & Starlink
- Domestic EV Chargers

Jamie McIntosh

022 173 9048 info@collabelectrical.co.nz

Heart Defibrillator Locations (AED's)

Lake Tarawera Fire Station	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
The Community Hall	475 Spencer Rd	Accessed through the main door with key from lock box or call George Gilmour for key ph 027 282 9034
The Buried Village	1180 Tarawera Rd	+07 362 8287
Rangioru Bay - Privately owned	11 Rangioru Bay Rd	This is the farthest house on the right of Rangioru Bay Reserve as you look out at the lake. Access across Rangioru Bay Rd. Private Property --- Please respect
Privately Owned	541 Spencer Rd	Corner of Spencer and Bayview Rd Situating on External wall at front door with all equipment required
Privately Owned	4 Bay View Rd	Available 24/7
Solitaire Lodge	16 Ronald Rd	Available Business Hours
Privately Owned	187 Spencer Rd	Available 24/7

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

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

Join Our Community Database

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



LAMEES
SANCTUARY
OF BEAUTY AND WELLNESS

Lamees Stevens NZDipPsych NZCertBT
Skin Therapist and Wellness Practitioner
+64 27 4060036
lameestarawera@gmail.com

Opening this summer

252 Spencer Road Lake Tarawera

Helpful Numbers

Emergencies	Police Fire Ambulance	111
Tarawera Fire Unit	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
Rotorua Hospital		07 348 1199
Lakes Primecare Accident / Urgent Medical		07 348 1000 1165 Tutanekai Street, Rotorua
National Poisons Centre		0800 764 766 (0800 POISON) This is a free, 24/7 service for all New Zealanders
Rural Delivery	Jan & Glen Harmer	07 349 1254 022 153 6894
Security	George Gilmour	027 282 9034/07 362 8378 george06@gmail.com
Rotorua Lakes Council		07 348 4199
Bay of Plenty Regional Council		0800 884 880
Department of Conservation		07 349 7400
The Buried Village		07 362 8287 1180 Tarawera Rd
Editor Kotahi Reo – One Voice	Victoria Jantke	ltr@ltra.co.nz

Have you visited the LTRA website yet?

Your new online home is now live at www.laketarawera.org.nz. We've designed it to be a rich, engaging resource for everyone.

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

OCTOBER 2025

1 Fishing season (OPENING)

26 Spring Fair, 10am (Labour Weekend)
Stoney Point Reserve

NOVEMBER 2025

16 Lake Tarawera Sailing – Registration,
2pm
Cliff Road Reserve

JANUARY 2026

2 Jetty to Jetty Swim
Time and Location TBC

11 LTRA AGM, 10am
Lake Tarawera Community Hall

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 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!

Spring has arrived in full force on land, and while the lake is sparkling, it still needs to warm up a few more degrees before most of us brave it without a wetsuit. Hard to believe that in just a few weeks, many will be back in the water, wetsuit-free. The community is clearly shaking off winter – whether it's the annual post-winter tidy-up, the house and boat spring clean, or simply getting back outdoors to enjoy the longer days.

We hope you've enjoyed this edition and that it once again captures what makes Tarawera special: people pitching in, projects taking shape, and a shared sense of care for lake, land, and life.

A huge thanks to everyone who helped bring this edition together – especially Geoff, Meg, and Tori, whose efforts behind the scenes make this newsletter possible and much appreciated.

If you'd like to contribute to future editions, drop us a line at ltra@xtra.co.nz. We're always keen to showcase the good things happening in our community, from small acts of neighbourliness to bigger projects that make a difference.

Here's to longer days, clear water, and good company.

See you at the Fair, on the trails, or out on the lake.

Mā te wā,
The LTRA Committee