

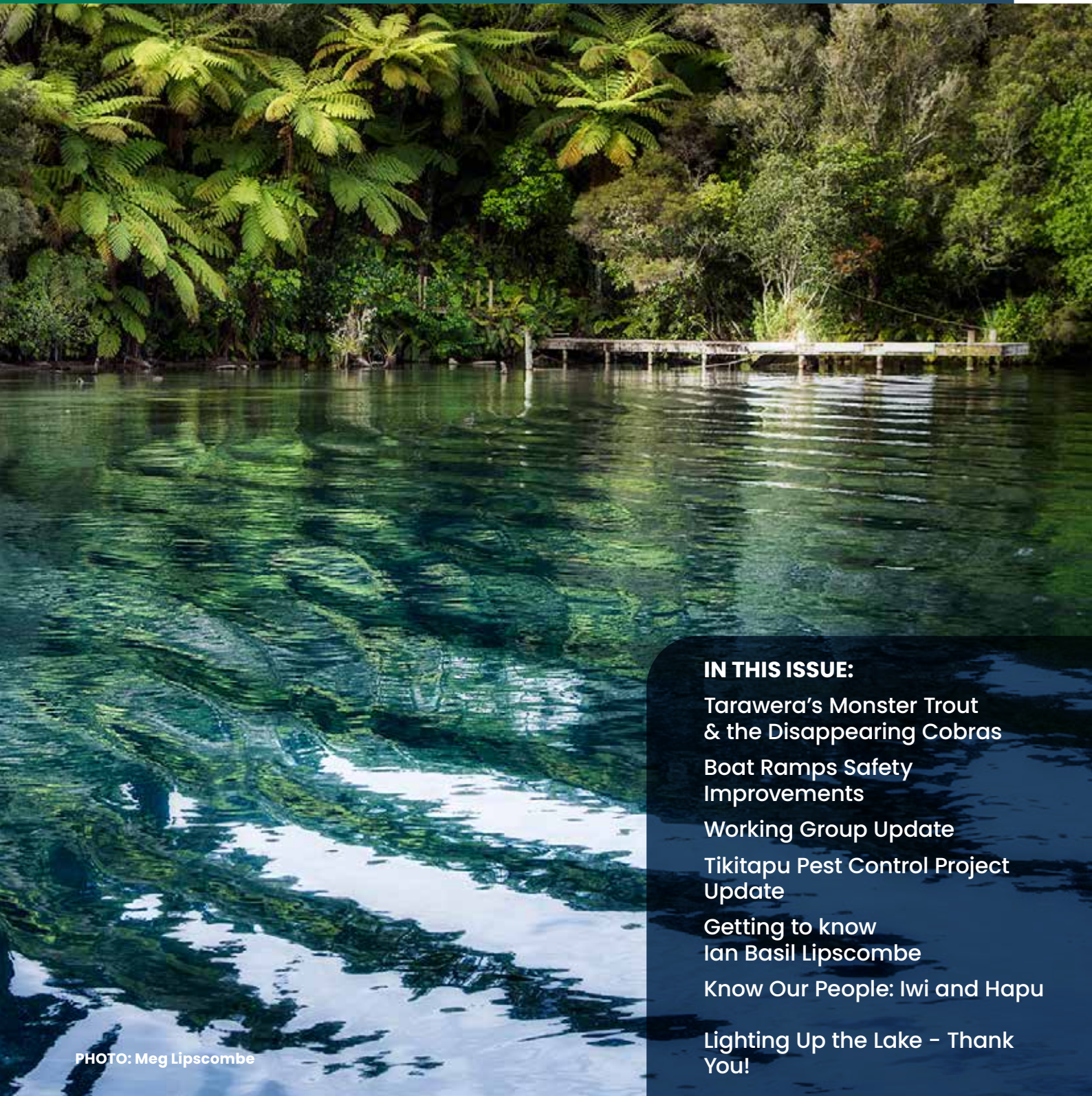
Kotahi Reo

One Voice



Whiria te Tāngata Weaving the People Together

Autumn 2025



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& the Disappearing Cobras

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PHOTO: Meg Lipscombe

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MEET YOUR LTRA COMMITTEE

As a new crew, we thought putting faces to names might help. It's not about us... it's about making it easier for you to connect.

While the main LTRA email is the best way to reach the committee, we know some people prefer a direct approach. So, below you'll find contact details for each of the team. We're always open to a chat, ideas, feedback, or anything to do with lake, land, or lifestyle at Tarawera.



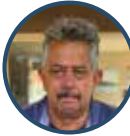
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A minute with Mike...

To Lake Tarawera Residents,

Welcome to our first edition of Kotahi Reo – One Voice. You will note this is addressed to all Residents and we hope it is fully circulated – this reflects the view of your Committee that we are a single Community and that we all need to act as one to build our environment into a very special one.

We won't always agree on everything, but we hope we are open-minded toward others points of view and that we are listeners.

Below you will find a snapshot of what your Committee stands for, how we hope to engage and the support we are hoping for from you – your ideas and wishes are really important to us so we are encouraging you to share them.

We would love to hear what you would like to see us focus on and we would also like you to share our details with your neighbours who may not yet be members of the Association please use (LTRA website) or contact a Committee member directly.

SINCE JANUARY

Handover from previous Committee: we have been busy completing a handover with the previous Committee and I'd like to thank them for their assistance in that.

Committee responsibilities and vision:

These are set out below. We are keen to soften some of the unhelpful styles cropping up in our Community at times of disagreement. People are generally acting with the best interests of the Community at heart but we want to encourage more tolerance and better acceptance of alternative points of view.

A one-page summary is included in this newsletter, and we invite your engagement and feedback as we begin to bring these ideas to life. To summarise, we have adopted four key objectives:

1. To protect and promote our Water and Land environment to the best state we can—we attended the Lakes Quality Water Society AGM to promote Lake Tarawera as a priority. We are engaged with Waikato University to understand the good work they have been doing in Lake monitoring and water quality

enhancement – this is a strong interest of everyone on the Committee.

2. To maintain ourselves as a welcoming community where residents and visitors alike can come and enjoy this special place (this is a responsibility shared by all Committee members).
3. To build relationships with IWI, Councils and our neighbouring ratepayer groups to ensure expectations are met. We have been requested by Rotorua Lakes Council executive to help them build up their social license with the Community which is a great start (this responsibility is with Iris Harvey, Dave Steele and David Honore).
4. To communicate with you in a timely way on the things that matter (this sits with Richard Packham and Erin Wansbrough (who by the way completed the 100 Miler Tarawera Ultramarathon in February)).

For governance: we are very well supported by Dean McIntosh and Dave Rendall on Treasury and Legal matters – in particular, we are in the process of migrating our contact database into MailChimp and our accounting system onto Xero as we feel that will better meet our needs and will allow the Association to operate independently.

...and Wastewater – this is ongoing – we have supported our Working Group in its liaison with Council. I wish I could report that we have a solution to hand, but we don't. Positively though, both executive teams of the Rotorua Lakes and BoP Regional councils appear to be doing what they can to help. In particular, Rotorua Lakes executive has advised that it would prefer the funding to be sorted out. We are, however looking for better support from Councillors as a whole—that's where the rubber hits the road!

OTHER THINGS

You may be aware that we have installed Starlink at the Community Hall. This is for general use and accessible through the normal Community Hall contacts – over time we hope the Hall use expands to make use of that – well done Owen for relocating our own Radio Station there (check 87.5 FM).



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

Harbourmaster Highlights: Summer Boating Compliance and New Lifejacket Rules

As we head into a cooler change in season it feels once again summer has pasted in a blur!

The months of fine weather have seen plenty of opportunities for boaties, kayakers paddleboarders and the like enjoy our beautiful lakes region and for the most part our patrols have been pleasantly surprised with 'on water' behaviour.

Our Harbourmaster Patrols again have played a key role in education and compliance on our lake this past summer. Breaches across the lakes were down on the previous three years with 68 recorded. 15% of these were for not carrying enough PFD's (lifejackets) onboard, 13% were for tow vessels having no observer and 69% were for speeding! With almost 80% of boaties being local to the Bay of Plenty its likely continuing to educate, remind and reinforce

the 5 knot rule will become a bigger focus for the team.

To report bad boaties behaviour call 0800 5knots. Remember it is a minimum \$200 fine for breaching this Navigation Safety Bylaw!

Our team have also done a great job in collecting lake user information as part of our SAFER BOATING SURVEY. This information helps us to better understand who is using our lakes and how to improve safety on the water.

There are some interesting statistics from the 465 people surveyed of which **85% of were male and 78% were local to BOP. Of the rest 5% from Auckland and 6% from Waikato.**

- 30% of surveyed craft were not wearing PFDs (lifejackets) but were carrying them.
- 9% of powerboats had no lights fitted.
- 7% had unnamed boats or unregistered PWCs (jet skis).
- 38% only had a mobile phone. 20% of comms weren't waterproof.

Safer Boating Media Campaign

You may have seen our Safer Boating advertising this summer online and on the large digital billboard on Fairy Springs Road. We also had an electrical digital sign board – like the ones they use for road works – positioned on Tarawera Road reinforcing the **"WEAR A LIFEJACKET TO COME HOME SAFE"** message.



INCOMING CHANGES TO OUR LIFEJACKET RULE

Our BOP Navigation Safety Bylaws have recently been reviewed and there are some changes. The most significant Bylaw change is the amended regional lifejacket rule.

The incoming rule change will make Lifejackets / Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs) **compulsory to wear on vessels 6m and under while underway.** This includes craft such as dinghy's, kayaks, paddleboards. Modern PFD designs mean they are more comfortable than ever before, so really there is no excuse for not wearing one.

Previously the Bylaw lifejacket rule allowed skippers aged 15 and older of a recreational boat under 6 metres to decide if passengers could take their lifejacket off while moving.

Nationally, of the 14 watercraft-related deaths this year, 13 had not worn lifejackets.

IN A RECENT LAKE ROTOITI BOATING ACCIDENT two small craft sank in a towing effort that went horrible wrong. In near perfect conditions the accident happened so fast not one of the six



PHOTO: Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana
One of the two boats being refloated

people involved had a chance to put a lifejacket on. All lifejackets and mobile phones onboard sunk with the boats. It was over an hour before they were pulled out of the water and a couple of gentlemen in their late 70's and 80's were very fortunate that the water temperatures are still warm.

Not everyone appreciates that in freshwater you will struggle to stay afloat compared to being in salt water and because lakes are typically colder, your body temperature drops more quickly. Both factors combined mean people have less time to be rescued if they get into trouble and help is not always readily available on the Lakes.

As we move into Winter and the land and lakes cool down and with fewer boaties out, being safe on the water becomes even more important;

- **WEAR YOUR LIFEJACKET**
- **TAKE TWO FORMS OF COMMUNICATION**
- **CHECK THE FORECAST**
- **BE A RESPONSIBLE SKIPPER**

Get a copy of our Boating in the Bay booklet to Know the Rules!

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



Te whakaterere waka i Te Moana a Toi

Boating in the Bay

2025



PHOTO: Sarah Wharekura
Te Arawa Lakes Trust

Te Arawa Lakes Trust Tarawera update

We are coming to the end of a very busy summer and we hope you have all thoroughly enjoyed the sunny days!

Our lakes have been very busy with people travelling from all over the country to enjoy Lake Tarawera and all she has to offer. Our biosecurity officers have been out throughout the summer patrolling our boat ramps and ensuring that all those travelling from lake to lake are aware of the Check, Clean, Dry process. Most lake users were well aware of this process, and it was great to see so many lake users who are happy to do their part to take care of our lakes.

TAONGA SPECIES

Monitoring of our taonga species is being regularly conducted at different sites across Lake Tarawera to give us a clear picture of the sustainability of each population. This monitoring is ongoing, but so far Lake Tarawera

has showcased a beautiful diversity of species – both longfin and shortfin eels of all sizes, kōura (crayfish), kōaro (*galaxias brevipinnis*), kākahi (freshwater mussels), and toitoi (common bullies) have all been caught at various locations across Lake Tarawera which is a great sign. However, although these species are present in the lake, their populations are not stable and there is work to be done to ensure they have enough habitat and resources to thrive.

MAHI TAU KŌURA

Tau kōura, a traditional method of capturing kōura that involves laying bundles of bracken fern on the lake bed for kōura to colonise, have been installed within Lake Tarawera at various locations around the lake. These tau kōura

have been installed for the purposes of cultural monitoring as well as to ensure the mātauranga māori encompassed within this traditional practice is shared throughout Te Arawa, especially for our tamariki. Our team conducts monthly maintenance on these tau kōura alongside hapū and iwi members as well as with tamariki from Whakarewarewa School. The tamariki in particular have loved engaging with the environment and the hands-on learning experience that tau kōura offers.

Aquatic weed control

Lake Tarawera is impacted by four species of invasive aquatic weeds; Lagarosiphon major, Elodea canadensis, Egeria densa and Hornwort (Ceratophyllum demersum). Each of these species can rapidly form very dense weed beds which smother our native aquatic plant species and reduce the available habitat and resources for our taonga species, in particular the kōura and kākahi who spend their entire lives on the lakebed.

It is important that we control these invasive aquatic weeds, especially around boat ramps and areas of high lake traffic to prevent these weeds getting stuck to boats or equipment and being spread to other water bodies.

The aquatic weed spraying programme, which targets these areas of high traffic, will be taking place once again during May-June, so please keep an eye out for notices in the mail and signage around the lake once these operations begin.

Updates about the aquatic spray programme can be found on the 'Te Arawa Aquatic Pest Hub' facebook page.

Written by Sarah Wharekura
Environment Officer,
Te Arawa Lakes Trust



PHOTO: Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana

Freshwater Biosecurity

It's been a busy summer for Freshwater Biosecurity and as always protecting the lakes we all love requires the efforts of everyone.

BOATIE BOAT RAMP COMPLIANCE

Rule 7 of the Bay of Plenty Regional Pest Management Plan means everyone using a boat ramp in the lakes area needs to self-certify that they aren't bringing any freshwater pests with them. Checking on that compliance throughout the summer also gives us some valuable insight on who is doing what they need to and equally important, who isn't. Results from the boat ramp checks undertaken at Lake Tarawera this summer by the Te Arawa Lakes Trust Biosecurity Officers include:

SELF-CERTIFICATION

- Total Checks for form completion: 753
- Compliant: 29.5%
- Non-Compliant: 70.5%

These figures are disappointing – anything less than 100% will be – but is better than most of

the other lakes and there has been an increase from previous years.

VESSEL AND TRAILER PHYSICAL INSPECTIONS

- Total Inspections: 90
- Compliant: 95.6%
- Non-Compliant: 4.4%

The high compliance rate for vessel and trailer hygiene standards is encouraging and reflects a good general understanding of the need to Check, Clean, Dry.

Moving forward, continuous awareness campaigns and stringent inspections will be essential to maintain and improve these compliance rates, ensuring the health and biodiversity of Lake Tarawera. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment.

CHECK, CLEAN DRY, CERTIFY (CCDC) ADVERTISING

As part of the ongoing efforts to educate and remind people of the need to CCDC we again ran advertising this summer across radio, in the Rotorua Daily Post and online through Facebook, the Metservice app and other digital formats.



GOLD CLAM (CORBICULA) NEXT STEPS

In March the national response to clams moved to long-term management which aims to contain it to the current known areas in the Waikato, reducing its impact where possible, and develop tools to achieve this. For us in the Bay of Plenty the CAN (Controlled Area Notice) rules that have been in place for the last couple of years remain. That means boaties that have been in the Waikato River in the last 30 days or plan to go to Lake Ōkātina must head to The Wash station first and complete the required Check, Clean Dry process before completing the necessary forms.

A new automated gate has been installed at the Lake Ōkātina boat ramp, allowing boaties who have followed the Check Clean Dry procedures to access the lake by using two PIN codes which are issued when the form at The Wash Station has been completed. Detailed instructions on what to do and how it works are available on the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme website.

On an ongoing basis eDNA surveillance of 12 high-risk waterbodies across the country, including the Te Arawa lakes will continue.



NEW PESTS ADDED TO THE REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN (RPMP)

As part of a recent partial review of the RPMP, along with other amendments, Council have approved the inclusion of corbicula (gold clam) species as exclusion pests and introduced turtle species as sustained control pests. Those who submitted will be notified and provided we don't have any objections the new plan will be adopted later in the year.

Reports of turtles in the lakes have become more common in recent years. If you do see a turtle, then please notify the Regional Council by reporting your sighting to Stop.pests.boprc.govt.nz



Written by Te Wakaunua Te Kurapa, Biosecurity Officer (Aquatics), Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana



LOCALS SUPPORTING LOCALS

Late last year we had the chance to roll up our sleeves for a project that really matters in our community.

Originally constructed as a Playcentre, the Community Hall has since become a real hub; a place where locals connect, celebrate, and hold discussions. But for some, getting through the door wasn't as easy as it should be. So when the opportunity arose to build a new access ramp, it was something we wanted to do.

It was uplifting to be part of a real community effort - locals pitching in to help locals. We were lucky to work alongside some top Tarawera businesses. Fred Stevens provided the design, Chris and Lea-Ann Hanson took care of earthworks, Lakes Contracting laid a rock-solid concrete foundation, and Collab Electrical illuminated the path to provide the finishing touches.

Watching it all come together was incredibly rewarding, making our hall accessible to everyone. A huge thanks to all who chipped in - there's nothing better than pulling together to make a difference in our own backyard.



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John Goad 022 524 5741
Steve Webb 027 300 9804





PHOTO: Geoff Thomas
Trolling at dawn is always full of promise and hope

Tarawera's Monster Trout & the Disappearing Cobras

This season has seen the best quality trout in Tarawera for 25 years. Fish & Game agree, and they can take much of the credit.

What determines our fishing – and the size and condition of the fish – is a combination of factors. Five years ago the liberation of yearlings was reduced from 15,000 to 10,000, and these are split over autumn (March) and spring (September). As hatchery fish make up 70% of the population, that equates to a 21% reduction overall. To use a farming analogy – fewer cows on the paddock.

Two years ago we had summer floods which washed nutrients into the lake, high levels meant good smelt spawning and with rich plankton for the smelt, their population exploded. The result of ample food and fewer fish meant fast growth. Phenomenal growth in fact, and yearlings liberated last September at 10-12cm and 40g are now close to a kilo. And the two-year-old

fish from the previous year are up to 3kg. This bodes well for the winter stream mouth fly fishing when the mature three-year-olds move into the stream mouths prior to spawning.

While deep trolling—with down riggers up to 43 metres deep, and jigging – was the key in mid-summer, water temperatures are falling and you will find fish at 15 metres with lead-core lines. One trick is to troll in a figure eight, so the outside lure travels faster and the inside rod slower. The key is variation in the speed, as all lures have an optimum speed to deliver the best action – too slow and lures like tobies and Tassy devils are lazy; too fast and they revolve. Neither is desirable. They should be as active as possible, without revolving. You can watch a lure by the boat to see how it varies, and all boats

behave differently in terms of speed through windage and engine size. Fishing into the wind is never desirable as you lose steerage, and speed, and you can zig zag down with the wind to vary your lures' behaviour.

TIP – Cobras can no longer be purchased. The reason is the factory in Tasmania has been sold to Russians who moved it to Russia. So there will be no more in our shops, although some stores may have some old ones under the counter. If you have any or can get some – hang onto them. They are still my personal favourite. Best colours I have found are the original white and yellow, spotty gold (barley sugar), green and red, and green and yellow.



Written by Geoff Thomas
The Outdoors Adventurer



Boat Ramps Safety Improvements

Rotorua Lakes Council has had some work done to improve the safety of two boat ramps at Tarawera with work on a third coming up later this year.

The Rotorua Lakes Council Open Spaces team had contractors install some new non-slip aluminium mesh on the Waitōharuru/Tarawera Landing boat ramp to reduce problems with algal growth that was making the ramp slippery over summer.

A variety of cleaning methods tested in the early summer were not very successful so the non-slip mesh was installed in mid-February. This seems to have resolved the problem and RLC will continue to check the ramp.

The missing sheet of mesh that was also on the eastern (LHS) ramp at Kariri Point/Boat Shed Bay was replaced at the same time.

The western ramp at Kariri Point/Boat Shed Bay has a slab that has moved and cracked so all the slabs will be removed in August and replaced. This should only take a couple of days and the other ramp will be available for use at this time.

Written by Rob Pitkethley
Rotorua Lakes Council



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Proud sponsor of the Lake Tarawera Sailing School

PHOTO: Meg Lipscombe

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ROTORUA

Working Group Update

ANNUAL PLAN

The Rotorua Lakes Council (RLC) has released their 2025/26 Annual Plan (AP) for community consultation, and surprisingly have advertised it with a leading question asking 'How should the Tarawera Sewerage Scheme be funded?'

They have proposed three options, delivering Tarawera ratepayers the following targeted rate, including GST.

1. The Status quo, @ \$50,325
2. An additional \$1m funded by the wider Rotorua community @ \$48,234
3. An additional \$4m funded by the wider Rotorua community @ \$41,961

They are clearly not listening as the Working Group principled position is a capped \$36,600 including GST.

The Working Group, which the LTRA committee fully supports, is planning a community meeting on Easter Monday, time and venue to

be advised shortly. Their view is the Council's position is totally unacceptable, and their consultation document is again slanted with a pre-determined outcome of option 1.

The Working Group is arranging a strong response campaign which will be shared with the community at the Easter meeting. They will be providing detailed information to enable us all to make challenging submissions to Council. Meantime your LTRA committee fully support the Working Group recommendation that ratepayers should NOT SIGN LOCALITY PLANS.

LET'S STAY UNITED ON THIS TO RETAIN OUR NEGOTIATING POSITION, and if you can please be sure to attend the Easter Monday meeting; - We understand joining online will also be possible.

ROKŌKAHI DISPUTE

As most of you will have read, the Environment Court has found in favour of the Council. The Council has advised the contractor has approximately 900m of installation to complete

the main line past the lake, and they are looking to complete this as soon as possible.

In the meantime, it is not known whether the Rotokākahi Board of Control will elevate their claim to the High Court.

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



Update from the Lakes Water Quality AGM

David Steele and I attended the recent Lakes Water Quality AGM on behalf of the LTRA.

Much discussion was had around the water quality in Lake Rotorua and how to meet nutrient reduction targets.

There is concern over the holes appearing in the diversion wall in Lake Rotoiti and the failings to meet its service life.

Lake Tarawera seems to have had fairly stable water quality over the last few years sitting at a 3-year average of 2.8TLI slightly above the goal of 2.6TLI. Tarawera was one of only 3 lakes in the Rotorua to have excellent swimming water quality (Chairmans report Lake's water Quality).

Following the AGM there were several guest presenters. They shared the need to mitigate nutrient loads into the catchments of the lakes, work with Manawhenua, councils, landowners and water users so that it has not only positive environmental impact but has a positive or neutral economic impact.

Also shared climate change implications for the lakes as being a big concern and a lot unknown, since 2000 the Bay of Plenty region lake water temperature has increased by 0.07 degrees each year and is now 1.68 degrees warmer.

Major weather events caused by global warming will impact the water quality. Following Cyclone Gabriel Lake Tutira in the Hawkes Bay, observed nearly full mixing of the water column, dissolved oxygen fell to less than 50% and surface turbidity went so high it was unmeasurable. Nutrient loads entering Lake Rotorua show massive spikes every time there is a large storm event. To date very little research has been done in this area. These reports along with the AGM minutes are going to be made available on the Lakes Water Quality website.

Written by Richard Packham
LTRA



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PHOTO: Meg Lipscombe
We extend our sincere gratitude to Meg for
generously allowing us the use of her exceptional
photographs, which beautifully capture the essence
of Kotahi Reo – One Voice and significantly enhance
the visual appeal of this newsletter.



PHOTO: Meg Lipscombe

Tarawera Landcare

It's a new era for Tarawera Landcare 2115 and Tarawera Pest Control.

Since a new LTRA committee has been ushered in we've regrouped and decided that just because the key members are no longer committee members, we still want to continue our core functions.

We have more time to focus on these functions now that the sewerage project, barring the hiccup at the Green Lake, is all but completed.

The projects we have been involved with for a number of years will continue to require community involvement so we won't be losing sight of that. However, we also can't lose sight of the fact that the efforts of a diligent few spending three hours or so a month, for the benefit of all, can achieve much when there is so much more to do when you look around.

If you need a refresher as to what TLC2115 and Tarawera Pest Control is doing and has done

there is a thorough coverage on the LTRA website (www.laketarawera.org.nz) under 'Projects'.

The decision to combine the two groups makes sense to us as there is so much crossover. We plan to take on more projects and increase the scope of what we do. We have some formative ideas which we will communicate as the bones gather more flesh. We are of the mindset that the majority, if not all, of the community are supporters of the work we do.

One positive perceived outcome of what we are embarking on is that our efforts will go a long way towards focussing the community in a positive way. The ongoing support of the LTRA is a key component of that. I'm optimistic that that our goals will appeal to other groups in the community as well.

Written by Pete Fahey



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Image by Grace Jones Photography



Getting to know: Ian Basil Lipscombe

Meet Ian – but around here, most people know him as Lippy.

Born in 1950, around the time Peanuts first hit the papers and India became a republic, he's witnessed many of the world's big moments. But what truly makes Lippy stand out in this community is his easy-going nature and his knack for bringing people together.

Tarawera first called to him 46 years ago, and from that first visit, it kept drawing him back. Occasional trips turned into something more, and 26 years ago, he and his wife, Meg, finally made it their home.

Lippy first discovered Tarawera on a camping trip with friends. After a few visits – renting houses and making day trips from Matamata – he and his family knew it was where they belonged. "Tarawera just drew me in," he says. "And once we settled here, it felt like home."

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

One memory that still makes Lippy chuckle is watching Ian Thorpe march up the road to fetch his dog, Tahi. Tahi, a big, black Labrador, was usually as well-behaved as they come, always trailing exactly 20metres behind Ian – like a soldier on parade. Ian, being ex-army, had that unmistakable military stride. He didn't walk, he marched – with purpose and determination. You could almost set your watch to the way he moved.

But now and then, there'd be no dog. And when that happened, Lippy knew exactly where Tahi had gone – off courting, of course. That dog could sniff out a lady from miles away, usually ending up at the neighbour's place up the hill. Lippy would spot Ian marching up the road as if on a military retrieval mission. A short while later,

he'd come back with Tahi in tow, tail wagging as though nothing had happened.

"It wasn't a one-off. It happened time and again," Lippy says. "And it never failed to crack me up. It was always funny!"

When Lippy first arrived, the perfect day was just like today – a crisp autumn morning with blue skies, calm water, and plenty of fish to catch. The vibe was laid-back, with no one rushing anywhere. Most people were out fishing, and the whole place had this easy-going, friendly feel to it. It was quiet and simple, just the way it should be.

Things have definitely changed over the years, though. "Back then, the lake was full of little fishing boats – everyone was out on the water, just enjoying the peace and quiet. Now it's more about the big boats – wake boarders and ocean boats. It's busier, and while it's still beautiful, it's just not quite the same, the pace is different.

"He continues, "I miss that simplicity. It wasn't so fast-paced. Now, the crowd's different—more affluent, more into wakeboarding, less into fishing. But that's the way things go, right?"

These days, fishing's a bit of a rarity. The small tinnies have been replaced with big boats, and wakeboarding has taken over. Even the roads feel busier, more developed. "It's progress, I suppose. Things move on," Lippy reflects. "If you stood on Bayview Road back then, half the boats going into the water were for fishing. Now, you hardly see them ... It's not a bad thing, just different."



LIFE NOW: MITRE12 – THE WORKSHOP

Step into Lippy's workshop – affectionately known as Mitre12 – and you'll see a place where time seems to slow, stories are carved into wood, and creativity flows effortlessly. It's more than just a shed full of tools; it's Lippy's sanctuary. A place where he tinkers, builds, and occasionally, just sits and thinks. "Sometimes I sit and think," he chuckles, "and sometimes, I just sit."

Lippy's love for working with his hands began on the land. After years spent farming, welding, and engineering – building stockyards, gates, and other farm essentials – he turned to woodworking. What drew him in was the idea of transforming something discarded into something beautiful. And he's picky about the wood he works with, almost always using reclaimed native timber. Whether it's crafting bowls from old wine barrels or turning rimu from a disassembled airplane hangar into exquisite cabinetry, every piece has its own story.

"I like the connection to history," he says. "I remember one day, I heard banging in the shed, only to find a neighbour from up the road unloading a load of rimu he salvaged from a bach renovation. Big 8x6 pieces, perfect for what I needed." That timber was later transformed into a stunning butcher's block. And in typical Lippy fashion, he adds with a grin, "I should probably reach out to Steelo and sell him back his wood!"

For Lippy, it's about more than just creating something. It's about taking something old and giving it new life. So, if you ever find yourself with some old native timber, don't toss it in the fire – drop it off at Mitre12 instead!

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE SPOT IN THE AREA, AND WHY?

There are places in the world that words just can't do justice to, where the experience stays with you long after you've left. For Lippy, that place is Humphries Bay at Lake Tarawera. "It's just pure peacefulness," he says, his voice softening. "The colour of the water, the bush, the birds... it's magical."

Lippy fondly recalls afternoons spent at Humphries Bay. "We'd head out on the boat, drop anchor, share a barbecue, sip some wine and beer with friends. And every time, you'd pinch yourself, realising just how lucky we are." That sense of gratitude runs deep, shaping his perspective on life in Tarawera.

When asked for advice to pass on to future generations, Lippy's response is simple but powerful: "Soak it in. The sights, the sounds, the feelings of it all. Keep your mouth closed, your eyes and ears open, and just appreciate what you've got."

Having travelled widely, Lippy knows how special this place is. "You can visit stunning places like France or Italy, but there's nowhere as peaceful as here. Most beautiful spots are overrun by crowds and hustle. We're not, and I hope it stays that way."

For Lippy, Lake Tarawera isn't just a place — it's a privilege, a feeling, and a way of life to cherish. It's a reminder that we've got something special, and it's worth preserving.

YOU'RE HOSTING A BBQ ... WHAT'S ON THE MENU, AND WHO'S INVITED?

When Lippy hosts a BBQ, simplicity is the name of the game. "It's all about a perfectly cooked scotch fillet," he says. "Salt and pepper, no oil, and a hot plate. Four minutes each side for medium-rare — that's the secret." No fancy menu here — just good food and even better company.

As for the guest list? He keeps it just as simple. "It's not about VIPs. I've never put anyone on a pedestal or been in awe of celebrities. It's about the people who matter most — family and locals." So, don't expect any pretence at Lippy's BBQ, just a relaxed atmosphere and genuine connections.

When the conversation turns to rugby or politics, things can get passionate. Don't expect soft takes from Lippy. He's more than happy to share his opinions, especially when it comes to the All Blacks' coaching decisions. "I'm not a fan of the recent 'Razor' selection," he admits, offering a few strong thoughts on team choices and tactics. With Lippy, you get the full, unfiltered experience — great food, honest conversation, and a good time all around.

IF TARAWERA HAD A THEME SONG, WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

If Tarawera had a theme song, Lippy would pick Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah." "It's what I'd listen to on the way back from a day of Lake Chartering on The Wakarua," he says, his voice softening as he recalls the moment. "Cohen's gravelly voice and those poetic lyrics — they just capture the peace and satisfaction of the place. It says it all for me."

But step into his workshop today at Mitre12, and you'll likely hear the unmistakable voice of Willie Nelson. "Willie's my go-to," Lippy says. "His music's the perfect backdrop for quiet reflection, tinkering, and thinking. It just fits the space."

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

So, what does the future hold for Tarawera? If you asked Lippy, he'd tell you it's a mix of hope and a little worry. Looking ahead 50 years, he can see the lake and its natural beauty still standing strong. But there's also that quiet protective worry in the back of his mind — what if something happens catastrophic were to happen to the Lake in the future... like an explosion or if it were to empty?

While those scenarios seem unlikely, they highlight something bigger on Lippy's mind: over development. He's all for progress, but only if it doesn't ruin what makes Tarawera so special. As much as the place is slowly gaining popularity, he's hoping the quiet, peaceful charm of the area remains untouched.

"The lake's isolation and those winding, narrow roads keep the big development projects away, and I hope it stays that way," he says. "There's not a lot of room here for growth without changing everything, and that would be a shame." He's not opposed to change entirely, but his main concern is preserving the place's natural beauty. It's that perfect mix of serenity and wildness that Lippy wants to see passed on, and he's hopeful it can stay that way.

What might surprise him in 50 years? Well, he's not sure, but his biggest wish is simple: that the beauty and peace of the lake continue to shine through and aren't lost to the pressures of development. His thoughts serve as a reminder of the delicate balance we all face: moving forward while protecting what we've got.

A MESSAGE TO FUTURE GENERATIONS

So, what advice would Lippy give to future generations living in this special place? His message is simple. "Soak it in," he says with a smile. "Enjoy the sights, the sounds, the peace. And appreciate what we've got here." He doesn't think it needs to be complicated. Tarawera's magic lies in its simplicity, and that's something worth protecting.

Written by Erin Wansbrough
LTRA



ROTORUA
LAKES COUNCIL

How should the Tarawera Sewerage Scheme be funded?

We're consulting on options for funding of the scheme as part of the 2025/25 Annual Plan

We're also consulting on our plan for water services as part of Local Water Done Well

Consultation now open

Participate in the decisions



rlc.net.nz/participate





PHOTO: Iris Arihi Harvey

Know Our People: Iwi and Hapu

Tūhourangi: Tangata Whenua

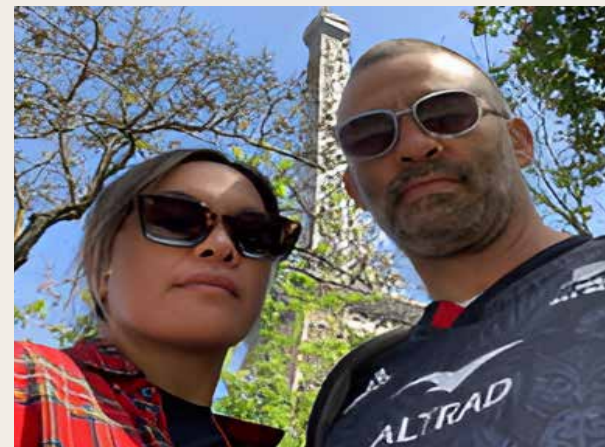
Tūhourangi, an iwi of the Te Arawa confederation, descends from the ancestor Tūhourangi, son of Rangitihi. Their rohe extends from Moerangi to Ruawāhia (Mount Tarawera) and beyond, with strong historical and cultural ties to the region. Before the devastating 1886 eruption of Mount Tarawera, Tūhourangi thrived around Lake Tarawera, residing in pā such as Te Ariki and Moura while guiding visitors to the world-renowned Pink and White Terraces. The eruption destroyed their settlements and claimed many lives, forcing survivors to relocate to Whakarewarewa, Ngapuna, and Te Puke. Today, Lake Tarawera remains a treasured place of cultural significance, where the legacy of Tūhourangi endures.

Ngāti Rangitihi: Tangata Whenua

Ngāti Rangitihi, a proud iwi of Te Arawa, traces its lineage to the esteemed chief and warrior Rangitihi. His eight children, known as Ngā Pūmanawa e Waru o Te Arawa (The Eight Beating Hearts of Te Arawa), laid the foundations for several iwi, including Ngāti Rangitihi and Tūhourangi. Ngāti Rangitihi has a deep and enduring connection to the Tarawera region, particularly Rotomahana and the surrounding areas. Their history, traditions, and strong whakapapa ties continue to shape the identity and mana of their people.

Grøunded Café – A Whānau Business with Heart

Grøunded Café is a small whānau-owned business offering a warm and inviting space inspired by the Danish concept of hygge—coziness, comfort, and connection. Owners Renata (Ngāti Porou) and Marissa (Tūhourangi, Danish) blend their Māori and Danish heritage to create a unique café experience that embraces cultural influences and hospitality. Their menu features premium organic coffee and a delicious selection of homemade baked goods, including scones, bagels, biscuits, and slices, inspired by both Kiwi favorites and Nordic specialties. The café also integrates tikanga and kaupapa Māori, allowing customers to order in te reo and proudly promoting the local rohe as a must-visit destination.



Deeply rooted in the community, Grøunded supports local businesses by sourcing ingredients like protein powders and providing a platform for artisans to sell their wares. Despite opening during the challenges of COVID, the café quickly adapted, thriving as a welcoming hub. It has prioritized employment for high school students and played a key role in helping a local entrepreneur purchase their lakefront business, empowering them to become their own boss. These milestones reflect Grøunded's commitment to resilience, community, and sustainable success. Visit them at 45 Devon Street or Te Pūtaka o Tawa Mountain Bike hub—call 022 690 5321 for more details.



Te Pūtaiki o Tarawera: Mana Whenua

Te Pūtaiki o Tarawera was founded in 1873 by Tūhourangi elders seeking wider Māori support to prevent land loss. Today, it unites over 10 Ahu Whenua Trusts at Tarawera, advocating for responsible development and protecting tangata whenua rights. The Rotomahana Parekarangi 6 Block owners hold ancestral and legal interests in the Lake Tarawera Catchment, with a Statutory Acknowledgement affirming their connection. As kaitiaki, they are dedicated to preserving the area's natural and cultural heritage, ensuring its protection for future generations.



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





PHOTO: Freepik

Lake Security: Summer Season Reflection

As summer comes to a close, we reflect on a season of high activity and increased security challenges.

At Lake Security, we've responded to multiple call-outs, including car crashes, two minor break-ins, and unauthorised access incidents. With heavier traffic during the summer months, ensuring strong security measures has been more critical than ever. The support from clients and the community has been fantastic, with timely phone calls and messages it helps me greatly in being aware and responding to incidents.

With one specific "break-in" this summer, the homeowner did not see the perpetrators or their vehicle, but with the use of the cameras up and down the road, I was able to identify the vehicle and hand the information to the police, which they used to apprehend the culprits and also connect them to multiple other incidents around town.

Many of you may have seen me at Lake Rotokakahi, especially while there was a heavy presence on both sides of the road. It was and is humbling to be asked by the iwi to support and help protect the whenua around Rotokakhi. This is not an interim but a long-term partnership that I am working with Tuhourangi and Ngati Tumatawera to help better protect our community. More information on this will come out as we progress in our discussions.

I am talking with and working with the LTRA and the Fire Brigade to finalise a Civil defence plan that is long overdue for Lake Tarawera.

Talking with the Council, plus the Lake Okareka Community Association, is helping us shape

this plan and is also important as in the event of a major civil emergency, we will likely be working closely with them. While we are in the early stages of designing this Civil Defence plan, we will potentially look for people to contribute as it develops. So once again, we will keep the community up to date with any relevant information.

Looking Ahead:

While summer is winding down, security remains a top priority. Now is the time to assess your current security setup and make any necessary improvements before the winter season. As holiday homes are emptying and the area quiets down, I will be increasing late-night and early-morning patrols and camera monitoring.

Do not let you or your property become a target while you are away over winter. Some useful tips:

- Buy a lock for your boat trailer – the type that go into the tow ball are cheap and very effective.
- Let us know of your movements over this period and whether you would like me to keep an extra eye on your property. Tell your neighbours about your movements also.
- If you see suspicious behaviour, take a description of the individual/vehicle. You are not wasting our time, as too often small occurrences lead to bigger, more serious situations.

Let's work together to keep your property and the wider community safe year-round.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to get in touch 24/7 on either of my numbers 027 282 9034, 07 3628 378. Alternatively, you can email me on gilmour06@gmail.com or message and keep up to date on our Facebook page, Lake Security Ltd.

Thank you to the community for all the continued support, I am very privileged to be able to watch over the slice of paradise we have here!

Hope you have a safe winter season,
George and Eden Gilmour

The Lake Tarawera Fire Brigade

Another busy summer for our fire brigade is coming to an end.

We were lucky to not have anything serious in our community, we did however have 7 call-outs assisting multiple brigades in other districts with large vegetation fires, ranging from Putaruru, Taupo, Waikete valley and more. With most of these being long duration events longer than 24hrs with some of crew even staying overnight at a forest fire outside of Tokoroa. Assisting Lake Okareka has been a focus for us over the summer with many of us on their call out list now as well. This helps build a great relationship with our neighbouring brigade and increase our readiness and capability to effectively respond to a major event in our community. The rest of the summer has consisted of weekly training including our medical co-responder certification we held at our station, so we are ready for any medical events we get called out to.

Our volunteers have also been kept busy assisting with multiple community events such as the Spring Fair helping with logistics, the New Years Eve Fireworks display helping with safety and Timberlands very kindly donated another truckload of logs for us to keep our chainsaw skills sharp and distribute free firewood to people in need around the community.

With four new volunteers in the process of signing up it's an exciting time to see our ranks being bolstered by some new faces, however we are always on the lookout for keen new members. With a variety of roles, training and opportunities being available – everyone is welcome! If you have any questions about our brigade or about fire safety around your home and property please feel free to get in touch.

Although the days are getting shorter and colder we are still in a restricted fire season and permits are required for any burning of rubbish piles etc. We recommend getting your chimney swept and checking your

smoke alarms before the lighting the first fire of the winter as well.

We have a new Defibrillator (AED) in our community located at 4 Bay View Road and is available 24/7. The rest of them are located:

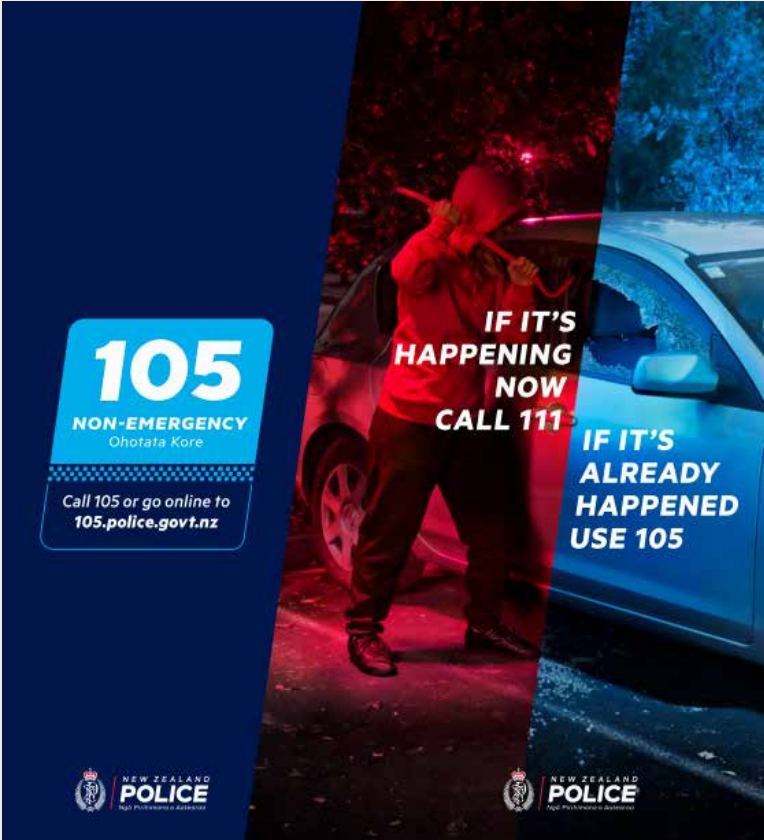
Solitaire Lodge – business hours
187 Spencer Road – 24/7
The Lake Tarawera Fire Brigade – 24/7
11 Rangiuru bay Road – 24/7
The Buried Village – Business hours

Thank you to our volunteers who dedicate their time and the members of wider community for your support in more ways than one.

Cheers,

George Gilmour – Chief Fire Officer
027 282 9034 07 3628 378
George.gilmour@fireandemergency.nz

Written by George & Eden Gilmour
Lakes Security



SPOTLIGHT

Back of the Bus: My Tarawera – by Emily Packham

My name is Emily, I'm 11 years old, and I live out at Lake Tarawera. Some of the things I love are skating, netball, football, and my home, Lake Tarawera. I have belonged to Lake Tarawera for as long as I can remember.

I used to love coming out to Lake Tarawera often when my grandparents had a house out here, but now I am lucky enough to live by the lake, so I get to enjoy it every single day. It also means that I have got to know Meg and Ian better (which is handy if I ever need to escape Dad) as well as Karyn, Richard, and Tara and alllllllll their gorgeous dogs. Actually, I might know more dog names than people!

One of my favourite things about Lake Tarawera is the sailing club, where Ray and Carol teach us to sail on Sunday afternoons.

I love being on the water, but it is also great getting to meet other kids and all the adults that help out, such as Pat and Patrice.

I also love that it is only a short walk to get to the lake from my house. I tried to make sure that I made the most of this, so Mum and I swam in the lake every day during summer. This was mostly really lovely in the sunny

weather, but there were some days when it was rainy or cold, and also a couple of late night time swims, including jumping off the jetty at midnight on New Year's!

Sometimes, it is a pain living so far away from town. But every time we drive over the hill and I see Lake Tarawera glistening below me, I smile and feel so grateful that I get to live in this little piece of paradise.



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
Rangiuru Bay – Privately owned	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
Privately Owned	541 Spencer Rd	Corner of Spencer and Bayview Rd Situated 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

Stay Safe on the Water with Our Community Life Jacket Library!

Did you know there's a convenient life jacket library located at the end of Bay View Road?

This wonderful resource is available for everyone in our community to use. If you're heading out on your boat and find yourself short on life jackets for all on board, please feel free to borrow what you need from the library.

We have a range of life jacket sizes available, suitable for both children and adults.

These life jackets have been generously donated by your fellow residents, helping to ensure everyone can enjoy our beautiful waterways safely.



PHOTO: Maritime New Zealand website

If you have any gently used life jackets you'd like to donate to the library, they would be greatly appreciated by the entire community. Your contribution can help keep our friends and neighbours safe on the water. Let's all work together to make sure everyone has access to essential safety equipment. Happy boating!

FIREWOODDIRECT

ROTORUA

**Douglas Fir, Blue Gum & Macrocarpa
DELIVERY CHARGES MAY APPLY**

CONTACT: Paul & Hayley 0274203087 | firewooddirectnz@gmail.com

Lighting Up the Lake – Thank You!

What a way to welcome 2025. Calm conditions, a clear night sky, and fireworks more colourful and spectacular than ever.

Truly world-class and magical show as the backdrop to however you chose to celebrate the New Year.

As many know, this much-loved event doesn't just happen. It takes months of planning, coordination, and a serious financial commitment to deliver something of this quality and scale. And somehow, every year, it gets even better.

A massive thank you to PJ, his whānau and friends, and to the many others across the community who stepped up to support this year. Your generosity and effort have created yet more unforgettable memories. Such a gift, so on behalf of the wider community – Thank you!

For many of us, just keeping the kids awake until midnight, or bundling them into a boat in the dark, is logistics enough. So hats off to those managing the real work behind the scenes: safety, fundraising, compliance, and community comms. It's a huge undertaking and we hope you also had a moment to enjoy the show.

Thank you for lighting up the lake and kicking off the year. It's a reminder that what makes this place so special isn't just the stunning environment but the people who bring it to life.



PHOTO: Meg Lipscombe

GET INVOLVED

For the upcoming issue, we want to hear from YOU! Share the stories that truly capture the spirit of our community – whether it's about the lake, the land, or the people who call this place home. What makes it unique? What brings it to life? You don't need to be a professional writer, in fact the more genuine and unpolished content is often the best to read.

If you have content that highlights the colour, character, and vibrancy of our area, we'd love to feature it. Whether it's personal stories, local events, or anything that speaks to the heart of our community, we welcome it all. Submit your contributions by 1 July for a chance to be included in our Spring issue.

We're excited to introduce three new sections in future issues of Kotahi Reo, showcasing the heart of our community, but we need your help to bring them to life!

Photos

Got stunning photos of the area? We want to showcase them! A picture can often tell a story in a way words can't. If you've captured something that embodies the spirit of our community, send it our way. Please ensure the photo is high-res so we can showcase 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 content you helped shape, you'll be contributing to something that reflects the true spirit of our community. Remember, we're all volunteers, so your contributions make a real difference. Plus, as a thank you (and a bit of friendly competition), the best submission in any of these three categories will win a \$50 voucher to spend at either Redwoods Butchery or Good Eastern.

So, get creative, share your stories, and help us make this issue one to remember! We can't wait to hear from you, until next time!

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



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JUNE

10 Mt Tarawera Eruption Anniversary

20 Matariki Celebrations
Community Hall, 5:00-10:00pm TBC

30 Fishing season CLOSING

OCTOBER

1 Fishing season OPENING

26 Spring Fair (Labour Weekend)
Stoney Point, Time TBC

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. Please 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.

Let's ensure everyone in our beautiful community is aware of all the exciting happenings around the lake!

CLOSING REMARKS

It's a Wrap!

We'd love to hear from you! If you have suggestions for the next issue, reach out at ltra@xtra.co.nz

Future editions are planned for August, November, and February, with content gathered a month prior. This is your community newsletter, so help us keep it relevant and engaging! Whether it's about the Lake, the Land, the environment, or the people who bring it to life, we welcome your contributions. We're open to opinions, information, and calls for help, just keep it positive, inclusive, and apolitical. No soapboxes, please – there are other platforms for that!

Sneak Peek for Next Quarter ... Keep an eye on our website for a refresh, it'll become your go-to for contacts, events, and useful information. We've been inspired by the work happening across the community, so if you'd like us to help raise awareness, let us know.

More to come on community awards and how to get involved, whether that's through nominations, judging, or supporting recipients.

THANK YOU!

A huge thanks to everyone who made this edition happen. Special shout-outs to Geoff Thomas and Meg Lipscombe for their generous pro bono contributions, the outgoing committee for sharing their knowledge, and the LTRA committee for hustling to pull this together.

And above all, a huge thank you to Tori, our 'newsletter fairy' and long-time Tarawera resident from Rangiuru Bay. Your design skills, editorial eye, and can-do enthusiasm have been a so great, you almost made the whole process fun!

If you'd like to get involved with the LTRA or any of the associated working groups, we'd love to have you on board so make yourself known. Like Tori, if you're keen to lend a hand, you're already the right fit. The more, the merrier!

Finally, thanks for reading. You make this community great, thanks neighbour!