

# THE PHANTOM

Spring 2022



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## Chair Report: Libby Fletcher

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Phantom, I am sure everyone is looking forward to some dryer and warmer weather. With no Spring Fair last year, we are pleased that it is returning, it is such a well-attended event and a great opportunity to catch up with friends from other parts of the country.

### Tarawera Reticulated Sewerage Scheme

As you are aware on the 25th August, Rotorua Lakes Councilors voted in favour for Stage One of the reticulation to proceed. This is the main trunk pipeline which will travel along Spencer Road and Tarawera Road to the pump station at Lake Okareka.

The LTRA committee are pleased that at last we are moving forward; it has been a very long and drawn-out process. Now that there is agreement to start Stage One our focus is on securing further funding. As well as seeking additional funding from both Rotorua Lakes Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council we will be looking for external funding opportunities.

On Friday, 14 October, Ray Gatland and I met with the Infrastructure Team at Council. As you know the \$6.5M from the

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Freshwater Fund is secure; Council have continued to work with the Ministry for the Environment and have updated the Deed and expect to sign it in the coming week, and are on track to sign the contract for Stage One. Work is expected to start prior to Christmas, Stage One was to be completed by June 30, 2023; due to the uncertainty of the \$6.5M and the delay in signing the Deed, this has now been extended to December 30, 2023. Council continues working on reducing the costs for Stage Two and expect to have these costs by April 2023.

In the next two to three weeks, we plan to meet with the new councilors to brief them on the sewerage scheme. In April we will be putting in submissions to both Councils requesting further funding and payment terms along the lines of all the other schemes in Rotorua.

### Cell Phone Tower

We have been in touch with the Rural Connectivity Group in the last week, currently they are working with Council on their Resource Consent application. They are hopeful that the facility will be built by Christmas. This has been a very long time coming and once completed will be very welcome.

### Security Cameras

We now have four security cameras operating at Tarawera, the second camera at the Buried Village was installed three weeks ago, it is a number plate recognition camera, we have seen some of the photos, they are very clear. The third one is at the Fire Shed and the fourth outside George Gilmour's property. Shortly the fifth camera will be installed near the community garden. Thank you to George for arranging these cameras and the installation of them. The fire team contributed \$500 towards the camera and the balance of \$11,000 was paid by members of the LTRA from their subscription. I am sure you will all agree that it is money well spent.

### Otumutu Lagoon

There is a very dedicated team working on Wednesday mornings on the foreshore from the Community Garden towards Solitaire Lodge. The progress that has been made over the winter is amazing, removing spindleberry, jasmine, honeysuckle, old man's beard, ginger, cherries, and willows.

The area that was cleared along the stream to the left of the community garden has now been replanted and looking good, gone is the nasty blackberry and honeysuckle that was smothering everything.

### Susan Cutler

We were deeply saddened to hear of the tragic death recently of Susan, she was returning from transferring a patient to Waikato hospital when she was involved in a head on collision. Susan will be

(Continued from page 2)

greatly missed, not only did she work for St John; she was a valuable member of our fire team since its inception, a great contributor. On Friday, 14 October a memorial was held for her at the fire shed and very well attended. Not only members of the Tarawera fire team and our community, but many members of fire teams from Rotorua and the Bay of Plenty attended, everyone shared their memories of Susan. There was a tree planting during the afternoon and in her memory a magnolia, aptly named Susan was planted.

Members of the LTRA committee will be at the Spring Fair and we look forward to catching up with you.

For those of you travelling to the lake for the long weekend travel safely and have a great weekend.

With best wishes,

**Libby**



- Family or special occasion cruises with BBQ option
- Discovery Cruise to learn about the local history and the special places of significance
- Walk the Tarawera Trail with pickup
- Visit the Tarawera Falls. Noted by DOC as one of the best short walks in NZ
- We have mini brochures available for your holiday home guests on all our products



07 362 8080  
info@totallytarawera.com  
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## Wallaby-Free Aotearoa: Melissa Williams (BOPRC)

Dama wallabies were introduced to the Rotorua Te Arawa lakes area in 1912. They were released near Lake Ōkāreka and since then have steadily increased in both number and range. With a huge appetite for native seedlings, shrubs, ferns and grasses, wallabies change the forests' structure and diversity which reduces the ability of these environments to support native birds and wildlife. Wallabies also compete with livestock for pasture, damage fences and planted forest seedlings.

While dama wallabies are nocturnal and shy creatures, it's likely you have seen them locally at night, perhaps on the roadside or even on your property. Unfortunately, it's estimated that if left unchecked, wallabies could spread to cover one third of New Zealand over the next 50 years.



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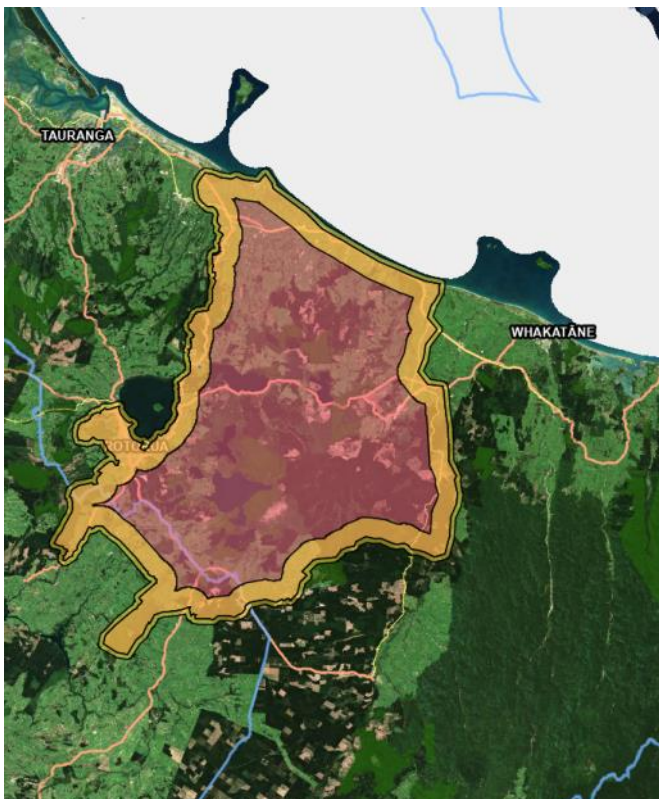
The creation of the Tipu Mātoro National Wallaby Eradication Programme started in 2020 with significant resources being made available through the 'Jobs for Nature' programme, to control Bennett's wallabies in the South Island and dama wallabies in the North Island. The vision is to achieve a wallaby-free Aotearoa and the strategy is to first stop the spread of wallabies by eliminating populations of wallabies outside of the containment area, then systematically working inwards from the outer edge towards the core of their distribution.



The Rotorua Lakes sit within the centre of the containment area, so it will be some time before agency-led wallaby control occurs in these areas, however, this doesn't mean these areas are being ignored. There are several options for people who live within the core of the containment area to support the programme and help reduce wallaby numbers on their own land.

Controlling wallabies is not an easy task, but if landowners are already controlling possums and rats on their property, they can tweak their methods to target wallabies. Staff from the wallaby programme can advise landowners on how it can be successfully done.

Recreational hunting can also help reduce wallaby numbers. Some recreational hunters have invested in thermal and night vision scopes and are skilled in their use. While the wallaby programme does not provide a match-making service for recreational hunters, this is an option landowners could investigate. Any landowners shooting wallabies on their property or allowing others to do so, should report their kills at [www.reportwallabies.nz](http://www.reportwallabies.nz) as highlights the contribution being made by landowners and individuals.



The Bay of Plenty and Waikato Regional Councils encourage the reporting of all wallaby sightings via [www.reportwallabies.nz](http://www.reportwallabies.nz) as this helps our understanding of wallaby distribution across the region and it helps to facilitate the rapid deployment of contractors with indicating dog to identify populations of wallabies from new areas.

For further information on the programme or for advice on the control of wallabies please get in touch with **Davor Bejakovich**, Programme Leader - **027 242 5431** or **Dale Williams** Bay of Plenty Regional Council Biosecurity Officer - **021 707 975**

**Map of North Island wallaby containment area. The 5km orange 'buffer area' is where operational work aims to reduce their further spread.**

# SUNDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER

## from 10.00 AM

\$\$\$ Cash Only \$\$\$

\$\$\$ Cash Only \$\$\$

Stoney Point, Spencer Road, Lake Tarawera

*Shop Early For Christmas!*

ARTS & CRAFTS, JEWELLERY, CARDS, CANDLES, SOAP, WOOD TURNERS  
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**THIS IS A CASH FAIR – No EFTPOS**

**Variety Auction Commences 12.30**

**Boaties:** Please use alternative parking areas at Boatshed Bay and Bayview Road on  
Saturday and Sunday.

Any money raised by the Lake Tarawera Spring Fair Committee will be donated to  
Tarawera FM, Otūmūtū Community Garden and Lake Tarawera Sailing.

Anybody willing to help on the day please email [laketarawerafair@gmail.com](mailto:laketarawerafair@gmail.com)





# Lake Tarawera Fire Brigade: George Gilmour

It has been another big year for us at the Fire Brigade, in more ways than one. I would like to start by acknowledging another great loss to our brigade; Susan Cutler. With over 50 years with St John and 38+ years in our brigade her loss has been felt greatly by us and throughout our community. As well as being a keen and active member on the fire ground she kept our station and vehicles to a standard few could match.

We have had 12 call outs this past year, including a structure fire, motor vehicle accidents, scrub fires, fallen trees and even sunken boats. Further training courses at the National Training Center, regular training nights with the Lake Okareka Brigade and some keen new recruits have been invaluable in keeping our call out readiness high.

Along with call outs this past year we have also assisted in community events, such as the New Year's swim, burning of green waste from clearing of the Otumutu Lagoon walking track, controlled burns on private properties, and the New Year's fireworks display. All made possible by the time and effort put in by our fantastic crew.

We are planning on having a community open day at the station with live demonstrations, activities, and a sausage sizzle in February 2023 so keep an eye out for information on that) — we would love to see everyone there! There will also be a stall at the Spring Fair with all sorts of information.

We are always on the lookout for keen new members, with a variety of roles, trainings and opportunities 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.

We hope you all have a safe, enjoyable summer.

**George Gilmour - Chief Fire Officer 027 282 9034**

**Steve Gatenby - Deputy Chief Fire Officer 027 466 44161**



# Community Centre Update: Claire Stewart

## Regular events

- \* Tai Chi Weekly: **New Beginners class starts 20 Oct at 2.00pm**  
Contact Alison Walker for more info **07 362 8151 or 021 100 5425**
- \* Friday Night Drinks: Every Friday from 5.30pm. All welcome. BYO drinks and nibbles
- \* Yin Yoga Saturday 10.00 am with Madelyn Skilton from Empower Wellness. Casual classes are \$20. Email [empowerwellnessnz@gmail.com](mailto:empowerwellnessnz@gmail.com) to book or for more information.
- \* Halloween Party Fri 28th Oct 5.30 pm **Adults only** BYO drinks and a scary platter
- \* Halloween Party Sat 29th Oct 4.00 pm Kids & family BYO drinks and a scary platter



## Working Bees on the hall buildings and grounds

Held the first Sunday of every month at 10.00 am.

## Lake Kids

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

## Membership Fees

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

If you know someone who is a member who is not receiving our emails please forward this email and ask them to [click this link to subscribe](#).

If you have any further questions regarding the Lake Tarawera Community Group please contact Claire Stewart on [clairemariestewart@gmail.com](mailto:clairemariestewart@gmail.com)

**Annual Membership Fees 2022: \$30 per family**

Payment to be made by internet banking to:  
**Account name: Lake Tarawera Community Group**  
**Account number: 03-0415-0068074-000**

## SUMMER SERVICES & MAINTENANCE

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<p><b>Wood Fire Chimney Sweep</b></p> <p><b>\$90</b> * Standard Chimney Sweep - Single Storey. Double Storey/ Open Fires and Cookers incur extra charge. Price for Lake Tarawera.</p>	<p><b>Birdproofing</b></p> <p>The start of Summer is the best time for this!</p> <p><b>\$80</b> Fit standard net*</p> <p><b>\$140</b> Fit Stainless Steel mesh*</p> <p><small>*Price is based on being on site to sweep the chimney.</small></p>
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## Jenny Donne - Lakes Specialist

I am experiencing a high rate of buyer enquiry at the moment so if you are thinking of coming to the market please give me a call. The Lakes market has been my specialty for over 11 years which gives me a wealth of knowledge of the local community plus being backed by the Bayleys brand with strong national and international links gives your property a leading edge in today's market.

**Thinking of coming to the market? Call me today for a free, no obligation, confidential appraisal.**

**Jenny Donne** Lakes and Residential Sales

P 07 349 5356 | M 027 385 0566 | E [jenny.donne@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:jenny.donne@bayleys.co.nz)

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## WANTED

**Empty 15 litre water bottles for protecting  
new native plants from rabbits at  
Kariri Point and Rangioru Bay**



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# Lake Tarawera Pest Control

## Rats:

Those pesky rats haven't given up.

I am using as much bait as I have ever used on rats and I have seven stations which is an indication of activity; rats are the only things that eat the bait. Lots of bait being eaten means lots of rats!

If you are using the T shaped traps make sure the baits are all fresh, I have had people contact me and say I have rats and they are not taking my bait. When I check the trap they have some manky, old mouldy bait at the bottom of the line. No self respecting rat will eat that as their last meal. These baits are a pain to get out, a bit of bent wire, bent with a 1 cm bend at the end will allow you to flick the bait up the support rod and out. **Dispose of the used bait safely, birds especially will peck at the exposed bait.**

We are getting back to normal transmission on bait supply, with a little bit of 'education' people are doing what they are supposed to do re recording of details and baiting areas. Thank you.

## Possums:

My experience is there are not so many possums—although it wouldn't be the first time I have been accused of being delusional...

If you want to see the result of removing most of the possums and rats from an area, go to Kariri Point and see the amount of kawakawa growing. In the space of four years we have effectively reinstated the undergrowth. It's taken a shed load of hard work from a huge number of people but it can be done.

I have a number of Timms Traps if you want to borrow one to deal with a pesky possum.

## Rabbits:

I went for a walk this week about 11 pm with a thermal imaging camera and saw 16 rabbits on the walk from Kariri Point to Stoney Point. I will see how many I can shoot. The mild winter has been kind to all evil doers in the pest animal kingdom especially rabbits.

## Stoats:

While I was out walking with no particular purpose last week at Otumutu, out from a woodpile popped a stoat. Rabbits and stoats go together, I have laid a trap with no success yet.

## Otumutu:

We have opened up a lakeside accessway from the community garden to Cliff Road and very soon this will be covered with about 20 rat/stoat traps, when the RLC reserve trapping protocols are signed off.

*The Ratmeister*



Phone: 029 575 0943

Email: [rats@eol.co.nz](mailto:rats@eol.co.nz)

# The Tarawera transfer station

Using the local transfer station correctly helps to lower the cost to maintain the facility, and maximise the amount of waste that can be recycled.



## Disposing of household rubbish

Household rubbish goes into the red lid bins, in red plastic Council bags only.

To get more red bags, visit the transfer station during manned hours or call ☎ 07 348 4199 for more options.

## Household recycling

Recycling goes into the yellow lid bins. This includes paper and cardboard, aluminium and tin, and only plastic items numbered 1, 2 and 5 (due to limited onshore recycling facilities in NZ).

Items that are commonly mistaken as recyclable are foil chip packets, polystyrene, tetrapak (long-life milk packaging), plastic bags and gladwrap. Please put these in the household rubbish.



## Glass recycling

Glass recycling is sorted by colour.

Please remember to remove bottle caps and jar lids before recycling your glass items.

## Items for landfill

If you visit during manned hours (Thursday and Sunday, 1 - 4:30pm), you can dispose of green waste or rubbish for the Rotorua Landfill Refuse Transfer Station.

Fees changed in July 2021, after changes to the national waste disposal levy and Emission Trading Scheme by Central Government. You can find out more about this on Council's website.



Help us keep your local transfer station tidy by reporting illegal dumping, on ✉ [info@rotorualc.nz](mailto:info@rotorualc.nz) or ☎ 07 348 4199

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

## Tarawera Sailing

### Lake Tarawera Sailing ~ 2022/23 Season

Registration Day: Sunday, 20 November

Cliff Road Reserve: 2:00 PM

- Families are welcome to come along and learn to sail together
- Adult learners are also very welcome
- Training craft and other yachts are available for you to learn in
- Come along and check us out!



## Stoney Point Public Toilets~Update

During the early work for the Stoney Point Toilet refurbishment, the ground under the southern end of the toilet block was found to have subsided. This resulted in the need to do an alteration to the design for the toilets so there was a period where work had to be delayed. The toilets have been reduced from four unisex accessible toilet/change cubicles to three unisex accessible toilet/change cubicles and the GRB Construction team are progressing on the modified design now. The toilets are on schedule to be completed before the Christmas holidays.

**Rob Pitkethley** Kaihautū Mahi Rēhia | **Sport, Recreation and Environment Manager**

P: 07 351 8202 | M: 027 807 2033 | E: [rob.pitkethley@rotorualc.nz](mailto:rob.pitkethley@rotorualc.nz) | W: [rotorualakescouncil.nz](http://rotorualakescouncil.nz)



## Tarawera Landcare (2115): Pete Fahey

There has been a lot of planting going on since the last edition of this mag. At Kariri Point over the late winter and early spring our volunteers have placed hundreds of baby forest giants (Totara, Pohutukawa, Puriri) to complement the Tawa and Mangeao that are re-establishing themselves thanks to the birds. These latest plantings have the benefit of being sheltered by earlier plantings of Manuka, Kanuka and Pittosporums etc that started only three years ago and are now up to three metres tall. Put a note in your diaries to visit the area in 100 years. It will be spectacular.

At Otumutu Lagoon the volunteers must be taking something. The weekly working bees have done stunning work. There has been trout friendly planting around the stream where the weeds have been cleared previously. The chippers have been very busy cleaning up the slash created with the establishment of the access way. You will also notice a hundred or so kowhai, among others, recently supplied via a DOC grant Landcare received last year. These trees will be a far more attractive proposition in the years to come than the willows and flowering cherries there whose days are numbered.

The feedback we keep getting is very encouraging and underpins our initial drive to rid the area of pests.

I visited 'The Redwoods' over the school holidays while mountain biking with a couple of my grandkids and it occurred to me that those foresters who planted them over a hundred years ago had amazing foresight, although they were probably thinking commerce rather than tourist attractions. Given that they can live for three thousand years these trees are still relative seedlings. I wonder how future generations of Tarawera residents and visitors will view the good work of TLC2115 volunteers? It doesn't take too much imagination to answer that—does it.



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**Lake Tarawera Fire Station**  
(Secure external cabinet by front door  
and in the crew's medical kit)  
**Stoney Point Reserve**  
**151 Spencer Road**  
**Lake Tarawera**

**Phone - 111** 

(Does not require phone reception)  
**for cabinet combination**  
**from Ambulance**  
**Communications 24/7**

**AED 3 The Community Hall**  
**475 Spencer Road**  
Accessed through main door with key  
from lock box or call George Gilmour  
for key  
**027 282 9034**

**AED 4 At the Buried Village**

**AED 5 11 Rangiuru Bay Rd**  
(No phone needed)

This is the farthest house on the right of  
Rangiuru Bay as you look out to the lake  
Access across Rangiuru Bay Reserve or  
down Rangiuru Bay Road

Private Property—Please Respect





## Department of Conservation Update: Caraline Abbott

- ♦ Rangers have cleared several slips on the Tarawera Trail as well as several windfallen trees. This required a temporary closure but the whole trail is now fully open.
- ♦ A community agreement has been entered into for weed control along the Tarawera trail
- ♦ A community agreement for animal pest trapping on DOC administered land has also been entered. Jason Grant has a small number of kill traps targeting mustelids and rodents.
- ♦ At Hot Water Beach, a temporary fence cordoning off an area of risk due to rockfall will be replaced with a permanent fence ahead of the busy summer season. **For bookings, please contact Totally Tarawera. Bookings in advance are required.**
- ♦ Threatened dabchicks have started courting, with the breeding season not far away. **Any work on lake structures should be postponed until after the breeding season (around February).** Lake users are strongly encouraged to minimise disturbance and boat wash which have devastating effects on dabchick nests which are tethered and are easily swamped by boat wash.
- ♦ Red billed gulls and black billed gulls are also nesting. These threatened species are often mistaken



for pests but are actually two of the world's most threatened gull species. These gulls are much smaller than the black backed gull which is commonly seen scavenging around landfill sites. Commonly noted at the Rotorua lake front, it would not be unusual for nesting to also occur around Lake Tarawera.

- ♦ Please do not disturb nests.
- ♦ Found a plant or animal and unsure if it's a pest?
- ♦ Visit [www.ifind-a-pest](http://www.ifind-a-pest) to download a free app to identify. Simply upload a photo and the app will clarify what you've found and how to treat it.







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- ◆ Outdoor Living
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## Community Board Update: Phill Thomass

With the recent Local Government elections we have a large number of new Councillors, a new Mayor and Deputy, and new members on the Rotorua Lakes Community Board. I'd like to congratulate Tania Tapsell on becoming our new Mayor, while it will be a difficult job with all the issues facing Rotorua I'm sure she will be a fantastic mayor, and I hope she will have a supportive Council behind her.



ROTORUA LAKES  
COMMUNITY BOARD  
fb: @lakescommunityboard

Of course Mayor Tapsell has been very supportive of both the Lakes Board and our lakes communities over the last nine years, being the Councillor Representative on the Lakes Board for the last two terms, and she has also had a strong interest in climate change and water quality, both issues of importance to our lakes communities.

I'd also like to congratulate Sandra Kai Fong who the Mayor has indicated she will appoint as Deputy Mayor, a hugely important role.

For the first time since 2010 we didn't have an election for the Lakes Community Board this year as there was an equal number of nominations (4) as seats on the Board, meaning the nominees were elected unopposed. I'm humbled to be re-elected and welcome back Nick Chater to the Board. We also have two new members, Stephanie George and Peter MacMillan. While Stephanie lives in town she has whanau links to Tarawera and has a strong connection with our lakes. Peter lives in Hamurana and brings previous experience of being on a Community Board in the Wellington region. I look forward to the energy and enthusiasm that they will add to the Board over the next three years.

With a new Council and new Mayor, the roles the two Community Boards will play in Council is a little unclear, but we will continue to work on our projects in our lakes communities. Currently at Tarawera we have seen the redevelopment of the Landing, while the refurbishment of the Stoney Point toilets (a project funded by the Lakes Community Board) continues. We expect this to be finished by Christmas.

The new Board will need to discuss and confirm its priorities for spending its devolved funding over the next three years, but the outgoing Board did in its last meeting make some recommendations around what it saw as important priorities that it hoped would be continued with, especially around the improvement of facilities for children and teenagers in our communities, including Tarawera. I also hope that as health and safety restrictions caused by COVID over the last two years fade, the Board will be able to recommence coming out to all our communities in person for meetings where we can discuss with you your concerns. We have always had a rewarding attendance and engagement with the Tarawera community, and this has shaped both our projects and also our advocacy with Council staff and elected members on your behalf.

While we have some uncertainties facing us around the roles of the Board in the new Council, I'm excited by the opportunities the Board will have in the coming three years to work on your behalf.

**Phill Thomass, Rotorua Lakes Community Board**  
email: [rlcb@thomass.net](mailto:rlcb@thomass.net) ph: 0275 47 4455.



# *It's your responsibility to* **KNOW THE RULES**

## *Always wear your lifejacket*

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



## *Always carry more than one way to call for help*

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

## **IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 111**

**FOR WEATHER REPORTS, TUNE INTO COASTGUARD ON VHF 02**

**TO REPORT MARITIME HAZARDS, PHONE 0508 5 KNOTS**





## RLC ~ Landing Update: Demi Arbuckle

Waitōharuru/Tarawera Landing boat ramp and jetty is now open to the public for the trout fishing season.

The new boat ramp and jetty is part of the wider redevelopment of Waitōharuru/Tarawera Landing which began in January 2022.

This involved:

- ◆ The realignment of the jetty and boat ramp, and addition of a new pontoon to create a separation of space for boat movements in and out of the lake.
- ◆ Relocation and angling the jetty to separate swimmers from the boat ramp area.
- ◆ Optimising parking areas and define boat trailer and coach parking.
- ◆ A pedestrian-friendly zone to separate boat and coach parking, and provide better connectivity between the café and lake edge.
- ◆ Enhanced lake edge with a new boardwalk.
- ◆ Information and signage to conserve and promote the cultural and heritage value of the reserve.
- ◆ Improving function and visual appearance of the reserve by adding picnic and lawn areas, landscaping and park furniture.

The Landing Café has remained open during the project, and Council have worked with Tūhourangi Tribal Authority along with other key stakeholders to bring this project to life.

Due to delays, land-based work including the resealing of the carpark and work on the rain gardens is still ongoing, as well as a swimming platform and accessible picnic tables and chairs to be installed. The entire project is expected to be completed by late spring.

Alongside the parking at Tarawera Landing, there are also three other boat ramps down Spencer Road which boaties can use. More space has also been created for users at Kariri Point/Boatshed Bay.



# Lakes Water Quality Symposium: Nov 10-11 2022

*“Get on the Boat - Lake Restoration Changes, Challenges & Maintaining Momentum”*

## Millennium Hotel, Rotorua

In 2019, our Symposium theme was *“Float Your Boat” - Certify* where the emphasis was on a call for boat certification to ensure boats launched into the Rotorua Lakes are clean and free of pest plants and animals. The Regional Pest Management Plan was subsequently changed to reflect the community desire to have no more pests invading the lakes.

This year – our call to action is again to the community to “Get on the Boat” and work with Lakes Water Quality Society to think about the future and drive policy and management strategies which meets community aspirations. Two major challenges exist – maintaining the gains made and managing land and water as an integrated system to make the lakes more resilient to changes, enhance water quality, and provide resources for future generations.

Much progress has been made across Rotorua lakes and their catchments in reducing nutrient inflows, controlling algae blooms and managing lake weed infestations. But with climate change, significant land use change to production forestry, urban development pressures, and the three waters infrastructure reforms, new challenges are emerging. Many of the lakes remain at risk of further degradation. Lake Tarawera water quality remains a concern. Lake Rotoehu has not responded, as expected, to ten years of control actions. Lake Rotorua is still on “steroids” (receiving alum) to reduce phosphorus inputs and control algae blooms.

### Symposium topics include:

- The state of freshwater in New Zealand.
- Essential water reforms – progress with implementation and impacts.
- Mātauranga Māori and managing water in Te Arawa rohe and New Zealand.
- Protecting biodiversity in lakes and biosecurity measures.
- The effectiveness of existing policy in building resilience for and restoring Rotorua’s lakes.
- Climate change and lakes - strategies for future protection.
- Impacts of production forestry on water quality and the role of the National Environmental Standard – Plantation Forests.
- Alternative forest regimes to enhance water quality within Freshwater catchments.
- Integrated land and water management – what we need to know, policy development, new tools, and their implementation.

### Speakers include:

- \* Dr Scott Larned (Chief Scientist, Freshwater & Estuaries, NIWA)

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- \* Dr Susie Wood, Cawthron Institute
- \* Minister for the Environment, Hon David Parker (TBC)
- \* Professor David Hamilton, Australian Rivers Institute, Griffiths University, Queensland, Australia
- \* Jason Wilson Deputy Director General, Te Uru Rakau/NZ Forest Service
- \* Paul Champion, Principal Scientist – Freshwater Ecology, NIWA
- \* Dr Tim Payn, Principal Scientist, Scion
- \* Associate Professor, Deniz Ozkundakci, University of Waikato
- \* Eugene Berryman-Kamp, Director Te Mana o Te Wai, Ministry for the Environment
- \* Over 30 presenters – for the two day Symposium.

**For further information and the programme see:**

**[www.lakeswaterquality.co.nz](http://www.lakeswaterquality.co.nz)**

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After a very wet winter, the lake is filling up! (Fiona McAllister)



# Festival of Gardens ~ November 2023



**Rotorua  
Festival  
of Gardens**

**Next year's** Rotorua Festival of Gardens, being held **November 10-12, 2023**, will mark more than three decades since the inaugural event launched in February 1992. With photographs being taken November-December 2022, the new festival committee are already inviting interested gardeners to become an integral part of this inspiring event that has attracted thousands of visitors and raised thousands of dollars in support of 11 local charitable causes to date.

The eagerly awaited biennial event became a three-day celebration of gardens and gardeners in the early 2000s and is now held in November to take advantage of spring's splendour, provided by rhododendrons, camellias, azaleas, spring bulbs, early roses, and other garden beauties.

Averaging more than 40 gardens every festival, organisers are always keen to add new gardens to each festival programme, so the 2022-23 committee are currently on the lookout for "new blood" to add to next year's festival.

Incoming organising committee president Carol Bannister said, "To ensure the festival keeps attracting local enthusiasts as well as out-of-town visitors, it's vital to add new offerings to complement old favourites and maintain the festival's impressive reputation."

The lockdowns and restrictions of COVID, plus cost-of-living increases of the past few years have made people far more aware of the benefits of gardening both in terms of mental health through the pleasure of being outside and nurturing things, and also the satisfaction of growing their own fruit and vegetables thus saving money, along with being more sustainable.

Carol comments that seasoned – and novice gardeners work hard creating and perfecting their own green spaces but often feel their garden isn't worthy of being added to the programme.

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“If you are proud of your garden, please come forward and let us assess your ‘piece of paradise’ which could be anything from a tiny courtyard to a large country acreage, a garden patch built on sustainable principles to a hard-wearing child-friendly space full of colour, or a revamped garden to a brand-new garden under development.”

“As gardeners ourselves we know it’s hard work, but the reward for welcoming visitors into your garden is interaction with like-minded people, lots of questions and compliments, the pleasure of sharing of tips and offering inspiration, plus it’s also a great reason to keep your garden looking its very best.”

To host a successful event like this relies on the goodwill of dozens of gardeners, dozens of volunteers, and dozens of sponsors. The bonus is hundreds of tired but happy festival-goers and sizeable donations going to local charities in the form of all festival profit.

After the first few Rotorua Garden Festivals, the event began making a small profit after covering costs and the committee were able to donate any profits to worthy causes locally [including the Mt Ngongotaha Bush Restoration Trust, Bay Trust Rescue Helicopter \(when it was still based in Rotorua\) St Chad’s, Alzheimer’s Rotorua, a local Leukaemia group, the Rotorua based St. John’s health shuttle, IHC Idea Services Rotorua, and the Rotorua Salvation Army Food Bank Appeal.](#)

Next year’s charity (or charities) recipient will be decided with input from the festival gardeners themselves.

Gardeners who think they might be willing to add their garden to the festival, please phone Trish Adler on 027 486 8484 for a chat.





## LTRA: Current Committee

**Chair:** Libby Fletcher      [libby@ultimatenz.com](mailto:libby@ultimatenz.com)

**Secretary:** Martin Wiseman   [martin.wiseman@dlapiper.com](mailto:martin.wiseman@dlapiper.com)

**Treasurer:** Richard Noke      [noke@eol.co.nz](mailto:noke@eol.co.nz)

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**Lake Tarawera website:**    [www.laketarawera.org.nz](http://www.laketarawera.org.nz)

**Phantom Editor:** Fiona McAllister   Email: [fiona@betterwords.co.nz](mailto:fiona@betterwords.co.nz)

## Useful Numbers



**Emergencies:** Police/Fire/Ambulance/Coastguard 111

**Tarawera Fire Unit:** Chief Fire Officer:

**George Gilmour** 027 282 9034/07 362 8378   [gilmour06@gmail.com](mailto:gilmour06@gmail.com)

Deputy Chief Fire Officer: **Steve Gatenby** 0274 664 161   [steve.gatenby@til.co.nz](mailto:steve.gatenby@til.co.nz)

Station Officer:   Murray Dillner   021 290 0376   [murrayedillner@gmail.com](mailto:murrayedillner@gmail.com)

**Rotorua Hospital:** 07 348 1199

**Lakes Primecare Accident/Urgent Medical:** (1165 Tutanekai Street, Rotorua), 07 348 1000

**Poisons Urgent Info:** 0800 764 766/Non Urgent 03 474 7000

**Rural Delivery** -Jan & Glen Harmer: 07 349 1254/022 153 6894

**Security** – George Gilmour 07 362 8378   [gilmour06@gmail.com](mailto:gilmour06@gmail.com)

**Rotorua Lakes Council:** 07 348 4199

**Bay of Plenty Regional Council:** 0800 884 880

**Department of Conservation:** 07 349 7400

**We currently have five AED Defibrillators on Spencer Road:**

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

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